

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1720/1999/EC adopting a series of actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA)

(2001/C 332 E/14)

COM(2001) 507 final — 2001/0211(COD)

(Submitted by the Commission on 14 September 2001)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

more than EUR 250 000 per project line within a year are subject to the procedure referred to in that Decision.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 156 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

Acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty ⁽¹⁾,

Whereas:

- (1) The objective of Decision No 1720/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽²⁾ is for the Community to achieve a high degree of interoperability between the trans-European telematic networks established between the Member States and the Community institutions in order to support the establishment of economic and monetary union and the implementation of Community policies, as well as to achieve substantial benefits for Member State administrations and the Community by streamlining operations and speeding up implementation of new networks and enhancements.
- (2) The benefits of trans-European telematic networks for administrations should be extended to citizens and enterprises of the Community, notably in those areas where this contributes to the objectives of the e-Europe initiative and related action plan, in particular the chapter on Government online.
- (3) Regarding the spread of best practice, conferences, workshops and other types of events should be organised in order to ensure general awareness of the achievements and benefits of the IDA programme and the dissemination of IDA guidelines and recommendations.
- (4) For the implementation of the Community Actions set out in Articles 3 to 10 of Decision No 1720/1999/EC it should be clarified that proposals for any budgetary increase of

(5) Following the interest expressed by Malta and Turkey, the IDA programme may be opened to participation by these countries in the horizontal actions and measures under Decision No 1720/1999/EC. Before the IDA programme has been opened up for participation to all candidate countries, the possibility for these countries to use at their costs IDA generic services should be facilitated, provided that an interchange of data with these countries is necessary for the implementation of a Community policy. This possibility should also be admitted for other non-member countries, under the same conditions.

(6) With a view to creating more flexibility in the annual budget allocation, a financial reference amount for the implementation of the Community action under Decision No 1720/1999/EC for the period 2002-2004 should be introduced, with the annual appropriations being authorised by the budgetary authority within the limit of the financial perspective.

(7) Provisions of Decision No 1720/1999/EC concerning the committee procedure should be adapted to take account of Council Decision 1999/468/EC of 28 June 1999 laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing power conferred on the Commission ⁽³⁾.

(8) Decision No 1720/1999/EC should be amended accordingly,

HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Decision No 1720/1999/EC is amended as follows:

1. Article 1(d) is replaced by the following:

‘(d) The extension of the benefits of such networks, as mentioned in the previous paragraph, to Community industry and citizens of the European Union, notably in those areas where this contributes to the objectives of the e-Europe initiative and related action plan, in particular the chapter on Government online;’

⁽¹⁾ Opinion of the European Parliament.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 203, 3.8.1999, p. 9.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 184, 17.7.1999, p. 23.

2. The following paragraph 3 is added to Article 10:

'3. The Community shall organise conferences, workshops and other types of events in order to ensure general awareness of the achievements and benefits of the IDA programme and the dissemination of IDA guidelines and recommendations.'

3. Article 11(2), (3) and (4) are replaced by the following:

'2. The section of the IDA work programme concerning the implementation of this Decision, which the Commission shall draw up for its entire duration and which shall be reviewed at least twice a year, shall be approved, based on its compliance with the relevant provisions of Articles 3 to 10, in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 12.

3. The common rules and procedures for bringing about technical and administrative interoperability shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 12.

4. The procedure referred to in Article 12 shall also apply in respect of the approval of the breakdown of the yearly budgetary expenditure under this Decision. Proposals for any budgetary increase of more than EUR 250 000 per project line within a year shall also be subject to that procedure.'

4. Article 12 is replaced by the following:

'Article 12

Committee

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee called the Telematics between Administrations Committee (TAC), composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by the representative of the Commission.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, the management procedure laid down in Article 4 of Decision 1999/468/EC shall apply, in compliance with Article 7 and Article 8 thereof.

3. The period provided for in Article 4(3) of Decision 1999/468/EC shall be three months.'

5. Article 14 is replaced by the following:

'Article 14

Extension to the EEA and associated countries

1. The IDA programme may be opened, within the framework of their respective agreements with the European Community, to participation by the countries of the European Economic Area and the associated countries of central and eastern Europe, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey in the horizontal actions and measures under this Decision.

2. In the course of implementing this Decision, co-operation with non-member countries and with international organisations or bodies, as appropriate, shall be encouraged.

3. Before the IDA programme has been opened up for their participation, the associated countries of central and eastern Europe, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey may use at their own costs IDA generic services, provided that an interchange of data with these countries is required for the implementation of a Community policy.

4. Other non-member countries may also use at their own costs IDA generic services to the extent that an interchange of data with these countries is required for the implementation of a Community policy.'

6. Article 15 is replaced by the following:

'Article 15

Financial reference amount

1. The financial reference amount for the implementation of the Community action under this Decision for the period 2002-2004 shall be EUR 34,2 million.

2. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limit of the financial perspective.'

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. It shall enter into force on the day of its publication.