



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 27.09.1995  
COM(95)446 final COD493

Amended proposal for a  
**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL DECISION**  
on a series of guidelines for  
trans-European data communications networks between administrations

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 189 a (2)  
of the EC-Treaty)



## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In response to the opinion adopted by the European Parliament on 17 November 1994<sup>1</sup> on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations,<sup>2</sup> and in accordance with Article 189a(2) of the EU Treaty, the Commission has decided to amend the abovementioned proposal.

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 12 March 1993 the Commission submitted to Parliament and the Council a communication on trans-European data communications networks between administrations (COM(93)69 final) which contained two proposals for Council Decisions based on Article 235 of the EC Treaty:

- one on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations; and
- the other adopting a multiannual Community programme to support the implementation of trans-European networks for the interchange of data between administrations (IDA).

1.2 On 30 June 1993 the Economic and Social Committee endorsed them.

1.3 Following the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union on 1 November 1993 the proposal for a Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations is now based on the third paragraph of Article 129d and is subject to the cooperation procedure (Article 189b(2) of the EU Treaty).<sup>3</sup>

1.4 On 17 May 1994 the Committee of the Regions endorsed the proposals.<sup>4</sup>

1.5 On 17 November 1994 the European Parliament adopted a Resolution endorsing the proposal on first reading and containing three amendments to the Commission proposal.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 341, 5.12.1994, p. 121.

<sup>2</sup> OJ C 105, 16.4.1993, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. COM(93)570, 10.11.1993.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 217, 6.8.1994, p. 32.



## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE DECISION**

The objective of the trans-European data communications networks between administrations is to contribute to the efficient management of a Community area without frontiers by means of the joint use of data communications networks. The proposal for a Decision on a series of guidelines on trans-European data communications networks between administrations aims at defining:

- the priorities and broad lines of action for attainment of the stated objective;
- the projects of common interest to be carried out.



## COMMISSION OPINION ON THE EP AMENDMENTS

After examination of the three amendments proposed by the European Parliament on first reading, the Commission supports them for the following reasons:

1. Amendment No 1 adds a reference to the need to develop data communications networks between Parliaments. This is compatible with one of the priorities set, namely to further the adaptation of the Community decision-making process and to help to attain the objective of IDA, namely to improve data interchange between the Community institutions and the Member States and between the Member States themselves.
2. Amendment No 2 aims at including data interchange with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. This is particularly desirable in the context of the cooperation initiated with these countries and the developments expected in connection with the information society.
3. Amendment No 3 adds a reference to the codecision procedure (Articles 129c(1) and 129d) and fits in with the change of legal basis made by the November 1993 Commission communication (COM(93)570).

### CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the Commission considers that Parliament's three amendments to the proposal for a Council Decision add strength to the text and are perfectly compatible with the objectives of this proposal.

These amendments have been included in the amended proposal.

[REDACTED]

Amended proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations

Original text<sup>1</sup>

Amended text

**Recital 4a**

Whereas trans-European data communications networks between Parliaments also need to be rapidly developed;

**Fifth recital**

Whereas it is important, for the purposes of the internal market, to facilitate the movement of goods, services, persons and capital between the Community and non-Community countries, and more specifically the member countries of the European Free Trade Association; whereas this calls for interchange of information between the administrations in the countries concerned; whereas this in turn requires cooperation with these countries in order to promote data communications projects of common interest and ensure the interoperability of networks;

Whereas it is important, for the purposes of the internal market, to facilitate the movement of goods, services, persons and capital between the Community and non-Community countries, and more specifically the member countries of the European Free Trade Association; whereas this calls for interchange of information between the administrations in the countries concerned; whereas such interchange of information is also highly desirable with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe; whereas this in turn requires cooperation with these countries in order to promote data communications projects of common interest and ensure the interoperability of networks;

**New Article 5a**

Any addition to or other modification of the priorities set out in Article 3, the broad lines of action in Article 4 and the projects of common interest in Article 5 and Annex 1, shall be decided jointly by Parliament and Council on a proposal from the Commission.

<sup>1</sup> OJ C 105, 16.4.1993, p. 10.



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# DOCUMENTS

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