

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM (88) 695 final

Brussels, 6 December 1988

## **PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**on the strengthening of the further co-ordination  
of the introduction of the  
Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)  
in the Community up to 1992**

(presented by the Commission)

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

The provision of a modern telecommunications infrastructure is a prime objective of the telecommunications policy of the European Community. The timely availability of ISDN, which can be considered as a natural evolution of the telephone network, allowing access to a large variety of voice (telephony), text, data and image services via a single user/network interface is an important precondition for the completion of the single market for telecommunications equipment and services.

On 22 December 1986 the Council of Ministers adopted Recommendation 86/659/EEC<sup>1</sup> concerning the co-ordinated introduction of ISDN in the Community. According to Article 7 of this Recommendation the Commission submitted a first annual progress report contained in Communication COM(88) 589 of 31 October 1988<sup>2</sup> on the implementation of this Recommendation to the European Parliament and to the Council.

On 5 November 1988 the Telecommunications Ministers at their informal meeting in Athens discussed the present situation with regard to the co-ordinated introduction of ISDN on the basis of this report. While the report recognises the considerable efforts of the Member States to introduce ISDN in accordance with the Council Recommendation, the delays and deviations which have occurred during the introduction of ISDN are also noted. The Ministers welcomed the annual report and endorsed the findings and proposed policy orientations.

The Ministers emphasised the high priority which should be given to the continuation and strengthening of the co-ordination and a common effort on the Community level aiming at the Community-wide provision of a set of pan-European commercial ISDN services up to 1992. The Commission was invited to prepare a formal position for the Telecommunications Council to be held on 12 December 1988 in Brussels according to the proposed policy orientations.

The Commission deems it appropriate to produce a formal expression of the consensus achieved to date, and therefore proposes the adoption of the Resolution as presented in the Annex.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community (86/659/EEC of 22 December 1986, OJ L 382/36).

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission concerning the implementation of Council Recommendation 86/659/EEC on the co-ordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community - first annual progress report from the Commission to the European Parliament (COM(88) 589 of 31 October 1988).

## Council Resolution

on the strengthening of the further co-ordination  
of the introduction of the Integrated Services Digital  
Network (ISDN) in the Community  
up to 1992

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Recommendation 86/659/EEC<sup>1</sup> has provided a focal point for ISDN implementation planning by the Telecommunications Administrations in the Member States and the reported plans demonstrate a recognition of the value of compliance with the Recommendation's programme for ISDN implementation,

Whereas the Green Paper of 30 June 1987<sup>2</sup> and the Communication on the implementation of the Green Paper of 9 February 1988<sup>3</sup> have developed policy and advanced a schedule of measures towards the completion of the common market in telecommunications,

Whereas the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988<sup>4</sup> set the political basis for the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment up to 1992,

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<sup>1</sup> Council Recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community (86/659/EEC of 22 December 1986, JO L 382/36).

<sup>2</sup> Towards a dynamic European Economy - Green Paper on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment (Communication by the Commission, COM(87) 290 of 30 June 1987).

<sup>3</sup> Towards a competitive Community-wide telecommunications market in 1992 - Implementing the Green Paper on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment (Communication from the Commission, COM(88) 48 of 9 February 1988).

<sup>4</sup> Council Resolution on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment up to 1992 (COM(88) 336 of 30 June 1988).

Whereas the Communication from the Commission COM(88) 589 of 31 October 1988<sup>5</sup> included the first annual progress report concerning the implementation of Council Recommendation on the coordinated introduction of the ISDN,

Whereas ISDN has gained substantial credibility in the Community with users, industry and Telecommunications Administrations,

Whereas ISDN is beginning to fulfill its promise of developing into a new basis for the Community's telematics market of the early nineties,

Whereas despite these positive achievements the major objectives of the Recommendation have been achieved only in part,

Whereas substantial problems remain for the further co-ordination of the introduction of ISDN and must be resolved,

Whereas, in particular the Memorandum of Understanding on pan-European Mobile Communications is already in existence, and should be taken into account in the coming ISDN implementation with a view to ensuring the necessary integration.

Whereas the Commission has proposed a number of measures in order to remedy the current deficiencies,

Whereas these proposals have been discussed in the Senior Officials Group on Telecommunications (SOG-T) and at the informal meeting of the Telecommunications Ministers in Athens on 5 November 1988.

**RECOGNISES THE EXISTENCE OF A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ENSURE BY FURTHER COMMON EFFORTS:**

1. the availability of a set of truly pan-European commercial ISDN services up to 1992 building on the initial phase of introduction of ISDN as set out in the Annex of Recommendation 86/659/EEC.
2. the end-to-end compatibility of those services and the availability of low cost terminals, which can be connected to and operated with the ISDN implementation in any Member State without any modification (terminal portability).
3. the improvement of the competitiveness of the European terminal equipment industry.

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<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission concerning the implementation of Council Recommendation 86/659/EEC on the co-ordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community - first annual progress report from the Commission to the European Parliament (COM(88) 589 of 31 October 1988).

**CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING MEASURES AS NECESSARY:**

4. acceleration of the establishment of common specifications, based on European standards, for equipment and interfaces at the European level, by concentrating available resources within the framework of the European standardisation system and, in particular, of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).
5. establishment of a "Memorandum of Understanding" between the Telecommunications Administrations on the provision of at least a minimum set of pan-European ISDN services and features and on the introduction of a common ISDN signalling system. This should take account of Community competition rules and the objective of the creation of an open Community-wide market for telecommunications services for all market participants, particularly for value-added services. Information on agreements envisaged should be communicated to the Commission before their conclusion<sup>6</sup>.

Such a Memorandum of Understanding should be open to all interested Administrations to join. The Memorandum of Understanding on the co-ordinated introduction of pan-European Mobile Communications, reached by the Telecommunications Administrations in 1987, could serve as an example.

6. Seeking of a commitment from manufacturers to contribute, within the framework of European standardisation and as rapidly as possible, to the development of European standards and common specifications for terminals and PABXs. These standards and specifications should make it possible to guarantee end-to-end compatibility and terminal portability.
7. Rapid working out of a Proposal for a Council Directive on Open Network Provision (ONP), as foreseen in the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988, covering ISDN, and including in particular Europe-wide definition of a minimum set of common user/network interfaces. This Proposal should take into account the requirements for the coordinated introduction of ISDN as set out in the Council Recommendation.
8. Further discussion on the European level regarding user privacy protection requirements in the context of features of new services, in accordance with the Resolution of the European Parliament of 12 December 1986 on the ISDN Recommendation.

**INVITES THE COMMISSION AND THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATIONS:**

9. to undertake all necessary efforts to strengthen the further coordination for the introduction of ISDN in the European Community.

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<sup>6</sup> without prejudice to notification under Regulation 17/62

10. to intensify the consultations between the Telecommunications Administrations of all Member States on the implementation of the coming period of ISDN specification work and implementation, with the objective of the opening of a set of pan-European commercial services available up to 1992.

#### INVITES THE MEMBER STATES

11. to provide the experts necessary for drawing up European standards as the basis for the common specifications considered above, in particular in the framework of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

#### INVITES THE COMMISSION

12. to organise periodic meetings between the Commission and the Directors General of the Telecommunications Administrations in order to discuss questions and problems which may arise concerning the further co-ordination of the introduction of ISDN, in particular aspects of pan-European services.
13. to issue mandates to ETSI in addition to the adopted work programme as necessary and appropriate for the acceleration of the production of European standards as the basis for common ISDN specifications, in accordance with existing Community procedures.
14. to work out a Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the Open Network Provision of the ISDN.
15. to evaluate the feasibility of joint research and development for the implementation of common prototype terminals for a single or for several ISDN services in the appropriate frameworks, and in particular the RACE programme.
16. to examine the possibilities for stepping up future support for the implementation of ISDN in the less favoured regions of the Community, in particular in the context of the evaluation of the STAR programme.