

## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 10 April 2013

8301/13

Interinstitutional files: 2013/0080 (COD)

TELECOM 66 COMPET 195 CODEC 768

## "I" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat

to: Permanent Representatives Committee

No. Cion prop.: 7999/13 TELECOM 60 COMPET 177 CODEC 686 - COM(2013) 147 final

Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks

- Optional consultation of the Committee of the Regions<sup>1</sup>

1. On 26 March 2013 the <u>Commission</u> submitted to the <u>Council</u> the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks<sup>2</sup>.

The sole purpose of this note is to decide on the consultation of another institution/body and not on the substance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 7999/13.

- 2. The proposal, which is based on Article 114 TFEU, should be seen in the context of the Commission's broadband plan, aiming to connect all European citizens and businesses to the Internet at a speed of at least 30 Mbps and that at least 50% of European households subscribe to Internet connections above 100 Mbps by 2020. Reaching these targets means rolling out new broadband infrastructure or upgrading existing connections. This is expensive, especially in rural areas. The Commission's draft Regulation would save between 40 and 60 billion euro or up to 30% of the total investment costs. The Commission's proposals will enable better use of existing physical infrastructure, better coordination and greater synergies between civil engineering projects and the different authorities involved. Local authorities will need to issue fewer permits when companies choose to coordinate their works or share infrastructure.
- 3. Article 114 TFEU provides for the <u>European Parliament</u> and for the <u>Council</u> to act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and after consulting the <u>Economic and Social Committee</u>. Thus, in principle, the Opinion of the <u>Committee of the Regions</u> is not required. However, taking into account the subject matter of the Commission's proposal, it would appear appropriate to also consult the <u>Committee of the Regions</u> on the present Proposal.
- 4. The <u>Permanent Representatives Committee</u> is therefore invited to decide, in accordance with Article 19(7)(h) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, to consult the Committee of the Regions on the above Proposal and to request it to give its opinion as soon as possible.

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