



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 May 2012**

**9963/12**

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2011/0299 (COD)**

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**TELECOM 100  
AUDIO 56  
CODEC 1312**

**NOTE**

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from: PRESIDENCY  
to : COREPER/COUNCIL  
No. Cion prop.: 16006/11 TELECOM 152 CODEC 1801 + ADD 1 + ADD 2  
Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans European telecommunications networks and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC  
*- Questions for the exchange of views on the telecommunications guidelines proposal*

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1. On 19 October 2011, the Commission adopted its proposal for a *Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks and repealing Decision No 1336/97/EC* (hereinafter: Telecoms Guidelines)<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Working Party on Telecommunications and the Information Society is in the process of examining the proposal for Telecoms Guidelines. In order to inform Ministers about the progress made to date and to identify issues requiring further discussion, the Presidency has put together a Progress Report.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 16006/11.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 9687/12.

3. In order to structure the foreseen Ministerial exchange of views on the proposal for Telecoms Guidelines at the TTE Council on 8 June 2012, the Presidency has drafted the attached questions.
  4. The Coreper is requested to agree to submit these questions for debate to the TTE Council (Telecoms part) on 8 June 2012.
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**Questions for the exchange of views**  
**at the TTE Council of 8 June 2012**

on the

**Telecoms Guidelines**

1. Deployment of fast and ultra-fast broadband will stimulate job creation in the Union and will particularly benefit small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which often cannot benefit from web-based services such as 'cloud computing' due to inadequate connectivity and speed of existing broadband connections. Fast and ultra-fast broadband will unlock the potential for substantial productivity gains for SMEs. The proposed Telecoms Guidelines outline types of projects of common interest which could be supported. To ensure the maximum effect, projects of common interest to receive support must be chosen carefully.

*How do we ensure a level of excellence while at the same time constituting a balanced portfolio of actions contributing to the European broadband targets for 2020 as well as covering areas across the European Union? Which criteria should be used when selecting projects of common interest in the field of broadband infrastructure?*

2. Access to European cross-border public digital services can contribute to improvements in daily life for citizens and businesses alike. Implementation of digital service infrastructures that enable deployment of such services will contribute to the realisation of the digital single market.

*The proposed Telecoms Guidelines list a number of types of European cross-border, digital service infrastructures that could be supported. Should any of these be prioritised or is it important to keep the list broad to enable flexibility to choose projects?*

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