II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Proposal for a Council Decision on the harmonization of the international telephone access code in the Community

(91/C 157/07)

COM(91) 165 final — SYN 339

(Submitted by the Commission on 23 May 1991)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 100a thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

In cooperation with the European Parliament,

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

Whereas the telephone service is the most important telecommunications means in the Community and easy access to international telephone services is vital for European citizens and European businesses;

Whereas at present different international telephone access codes are required in the Member States for access to public telephone services;

Whereas this imposes an undue burden with regard to the use of these services on citizens travelling or working in Member States;

Whereas access to telephone services is provided for in all Member States by law, regulation or administrative action; whereas continuing divergent developments in access to international telephone services due to different international telephone access codes must be avoided;

Whereas, therefore, the harmonization of the international telephone access code in the Community would promote the establishment and functioning of the internal market;

Whereas the European Conference of Post and Telecommunications (CEPT) has recommended in its recommendation T/SF 1 of 1976 the use of the prefix 00 as the standard international telephone access code;

Whereas this recommendation has only been followed by a limited number of Member States;

Whereas for all Member States it will be possible to devise a plan to make the number 00 available;

Whereas several Member States have already introduced the number 00 as the international telephone access code or could do it by 1992;

Whereas, however, for a limited number of Member States this could cause a substantial burden since they would need to make unplanned changes or to advance plans already made; whereas, therefore, flexibility is needed in the time schedule for introduction in these Member States;

Whereas the introduction of the number 00 will be possible by 1998, even in Member States where difficulties exist;

Whereas in those cases interim measures should be taken, in order to facilitate access to international telephone services in the meantime;

Whereas specific arrangements for making calls between adjacent locations across borders between Member States may be established or continued,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Member States shall ensure that the number 00 is introduced in public telephone networks as the standard international telephone access code.

Article 2

The standard international telephone access code shall be introduced by 31 December 1992 at the latest, except as provided for in Article 3.

Article 3

Where particular technical, financial, or organizational difficulties in a Member State make the introduction of the standard international telephone access code by the date laid down in Article 2 impossible, that Member State shall submit to the Commission the relevant information.

The Member State concerned shall communicate to the Commission, with adequate explanations and justification, a new date for the introduction of the standard international telephone access code which, however, shall not be later than 31 December 1998.

Article 4

Where Member States invoke Article 3, Member States shall nevertheless ensure that the 00 number range is freed from other uses by 31 December 1995, in anticipation of the full implementation of this number as the international telephone access code.

Member States shall ensure that from this date onwards, subscribers attempting to dial 00 are provided with a free-of-charge recorded announcement in an appropriate number of Community languages, advising of the specific international telephone access code still in use.

Article 5

1. Special dialling arrangements for making calls between adjacent locations across borders between Member States may be established or continued.

In these cases Member States shall ensure that where the standard international telephone access code is dialled, the call is nevertheless correctly routed to its destination and that the same tariffs as under these arrangements are applied.

2. Where particular technical, financial, or organizational difficulties make it initially impossible to comply with paragraph 1, Member States shall inform the Commission and ensure that the necessary changes are made as quickly as possible.

3. The telephone subscribers in the locations concerned shall be fully informed of the arrangements.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the application of the protocols on financial and technical cooperation concluded by the Community with non-member Mediterranean countries

(91/C 157/08)

COM(91) 184 final

(Submitted by the Commission on 3 June 1991)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the conclusion of protocols on financial and technical cooperation between the European Economic Community and non-member Mediterranean countries hereinafter referred to as 'protocols',

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas the protocols provide for operations financed from the Community budget in the form of grants, special loans, contributions to the constitution of risk capital and loans from the own resources of the