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**Preparing Europe's digital future  
i2010 Mid-Term Review**

**Volume 2: i2010 - List of actions**

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## **1. i2010 — OVERVIEW OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2005-2007**

Nearly three years on from the launch of the i2010 strategy in June 2005, the list of achievements is long. Not only have all the major initiatives announced at the outset been launched, but new ones have also been added along the way.

### **1.1. Single Information Space**

One of the first major i2010 initiatives was the proposal to modernise the TV Without Frontiers Directive. The new Audiovisual Media Services Directive has now been adopted by the Council and the European Parliament and is going to become law in 2009. The directive modernises the rules for Europe's audiovisual industry and provides a comprehensive legal framework covering all audiovisual media services — now including on-demand services.

The second highlight has been the package of proposals to reform EU telecom rules, which the Commission tabled at the end of 2007. The proposals update and improve the 2002 regulatory framework for electronic communications to meet the challenges of today's digital age. The reform represents a major push to remove the remaining bottlenecks in the EU telecoms markets, encourage investment in next-generation networks, improve the consistency of telecom rules and ensure more efficient management of spectrum across Europe.

Since the launch of i2010 the Commission has been very active in the field of spectrum management to ensure optimal use of this vital resource across the EU. The measures presented have ranged from a general reform of spectrum management, an RFID strategy and an approach to the digital dividend to specific harmonising decisions.

The Commission has also taken the initiative to promote online distribution of content so that EU citizens can enjoy easier and faster access to a variety of music, TV programmes, films or games through the Internet, mobile phones or other devices. The Film Online Charter, signed in Cannes in 2005, paved the way with a more comprehensive approach to creative content online, presented by the Commission in early 2008. Further recommendations have been announced.

In the summer of 2007, Europe's consumers were able to take advantage of cheaper roaming rates as the EU Roaming Regulation, proposed by the Commission just a year earlier, entered into force across the EU. Other notable initiatives included EU policy outlines for a secure information society in general and on fighting spam and cyber crime in particular, an agenda to promote mobile TV, and a plan for strengthening media literacy among the European public.

Finally, the i2010 High Level Group held a number of forward-looking debates on topics ranging from the challenges of digital convergence to next-generation networks and new perspectives for the role of the user and content in the digital age.

## **1.2. ICT research and innovation**

European research and innovation are now receiving a major boost from the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), which runs from 2007 to 2013, with a total of over €9 billion earmarked for ICTs. But innovation does not only arise from research — it is also increasingly driven by users of technologies and organisational change. The ICT policy support programme (ICT PSP) in the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), also launched for the period 2007-2013, stimulates innovation and competitiveness by promoting wider uptake and best use of ICTs by citizens, governments and businesses, in particular SMEs. Moreover, at present some € 3.6 billion of the Structural Funds are foreseen for investment in ICTs (access, security, interoperability, risk-prevention, research, innovation, e-content) in the period 2007-2013.

In 2005-2006 the Commission helped establish new types of partnership — nine European Technology Platforms — in the field of ICTs to strengthen partnership with industry and achieve a critical mass of research in strategic fields. In 2007, it was proposed to turn two of the platforms into the first ever Europe-wide public-private R&D partnerships: the Commission presented two Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) on Embedded Computing Systems and Nanoelectronics. These JTIs will pool industry, Member State and Commission resources to conduct targeted research programmes.

In 2007 the Commission also proposed a long-term eSkills agenda as well as a new strategy for harnessing the innovative potential of public spending at the pre-commercial stage, which is risky but also important for research breakthroughs. Moreover, the Commission has been looking into the standardisation needs of the ICT sector.

The IDABC programme is promoting interoperability of eGovernment services at pan-European level, notably through the current revision of the European Interoperability Framework and the actions supporting interoperability for eIdentity and eSignatures. The European Commission itself is progressing on all the aims of its 2005 e-Commission initiative, on track to becoming an integrated government by 2010 (level 3 of e-government maturity on a scale from 1 to 4).

## **1.3. Inclusion, public services and quality of life**

In 2005 and early 2006, Communications on bridging the broadband gap and on eAccessibility presented comprehensive approaches for these two areas. In mid-2006, the Riga ministerial conference also launched an ambitious agenda (Riga Ministerial Declaration) signed by 34 European countries to make the benefits of ICTs available to all EU citizens, with specific targets to be monitored and achieved by 2010.

In 2007 the Commission presented a major European eInclusion Initiative for 2008. Furthermore, one of the focus areas, ageing, will be addressed by the flagship initiative Ageing Well in the Information Society, which was also launched in that year. The initiative comprises an action plan and research funding for ambient assisted living.

Two other flagship initiatives have also been launched to illustrate the potential of ICTs to improve the quality of life in the areas of intelligent transport — the Intelligent Car — and making cultural heritage widely accessible — the European Digital Libraries project.

In the area of eGovernment, 2006 saw the Commission propose an action plan with, again, specific commitments to deliver tangible benefits to all Europeans by 2010. Furthermore, implementation of the 2004 Action Plan on eHealth, which aims to help the Member States reform their health systems and deploy innovative ICT solutions, is well on track.

The overall investment of the Structural Funds into innovative ICTs has more than doubled compared to the previous programming period (2000-2006) and is now expected to be around € 15.2 billion. Of this amount some € 8.8 billion will be invested in services and applications for citizens (e-health, e-government, e-learning, e-inclusion, etc.), services and applications for SMEs (e-commerce, education and training, networking, etc.) and other measures for improving access to and efficient use of ICTs by SMEs.

## **2. FUTURE ACTIONS ANNOUNCED IN THE MID-TERM REVIEW**

### **2.1. Single Information Space**

Under the i2010 priority for creating a Single European Information Space, the Commission will monitor progress towards higher-speed networks by developing a broadband performance index and invite the Member States to set national targets for high-speed Internet usage to reach a 30% penetration rate among the EU population by 2010. The Commission also plans to propose a coherent long-term approach for the future of networks and the Internet and to issue a recommendation on Next Generation Access. New proposals will seek to facilitate the transition to IPv6, to promote the ‘Internet of Things’ (through a recommendation on RFID) and to ensure the high resilience of critical communication networks and information infrastructure (such as the Internet).

The adoption of the Commission’s regulatory package for eCommunication by the Council and the European Parliament will be a highlight in 2008. By mid-2009 the European Electronic Communications Market Authority is to be created. The Commission will furthermore continue to promote more efficient, pan-European management of spectrum.

Universal service obligations will be assessed. To help users find their way in the new digital environment, a guide explaining their rights and obligations will be published. At the same time, the Commission will continue to work on the next phase of the revision of the consumer *acquis*. Moreover, the Commission will continue to support the protection of minors and the fight against illegal content through its newly proposed Safer Internet 2009-2013 programme. It will also assess challenges to privacy and trust in the information society (Communication) and address the interoperability and transparency of digital rights management (DRM) for consumers (Recommendation on content online). The Content Online Platform is to be launched.

## **2.2. ICT research and innovation**

In the area of ICT research, innovation and take-up, many actions have already been launched that will yield benefits in the longer run. The Commission will continue to encourage the pooling of public and private R&D efforts in the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs), the Joint National Programmes, the ERA (European Research Area) coordination actions, and the European Technology Platforms (ETPs). The public sector will be encouraged to use its role as a first buyer to promote the public procurement of R&D services and innovative solutions. The Commission will address the role of e-Infrastructures in a changing and global research environment, and will issue a Communication on ICT research and innovation. The Commission will also adopt an action plan for e-signatures and e-authentication, propose improvements to ICT standardisation and implement a European electronic invoicing framework.

## **2.3. Inclusion, public services and quality of life**

As regards social inclusion in the information society, 2008 will see the implementation of the newly launched European eInclusion Initiative. Support for the development of pan-European public services will continue through large-scale pilot projects under the ICT Policy Support Programme (part of the CIP — Competitiveness and Innovation Programme). The Commission will furthermore implement the eHealth lead market initiative to exploit the full potential of eHealth for Europe. A Communication on ICTs and energy efficiency will be presented to help achieve Europe's sustainable growth objectives under the Lisbon agenda.

**3. i2010 — LIST OF ACTIONS  
JUNE 2005 TO MARCH 2008<sup>1</sup>**

0 — horizontal i2010 actions	
Action and delivery date	Overview
Communication ‘i2010 — A European Information Society for growth and employment’, COM(2005) 229, 01.06.2005	<p>The Communication sets a framework for addressing the main challenges and developments in the information society and media sectors up to 2010. The i2010 initiative promotes an open and competitive digital economy and emphasises ICTs as a driver of inclusion and quality of life. i2010 rests on three pillars:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Creating the single European Information Space, which promotes an open and competitive internal market for information society and media services;</li> <li>(2) Increasing investment in innovation and research in ICTs; and</li> <li>(3) Fostering inclusion, better public services and quality of life through the use of ICTs.</li> </ol>
i2010 High Level Conference, London, 06.09.2005	The i2010 conference, hosted by the UK Presidency, provided a key opportunity for governments and business from across the EU to contribute to the definition of the i2010 strategy for the EU up to 2010.
Establishment of the i2010 High Level Group, Commission Decision (2006/215/EC), 15.03.2006	The High Level Group of Member State representatives advises the Commission on the implementation, review and development of the i2010 strategy.
New benchmarking framework for i2010, 20.04.2006	Benchmarking is central to monitoring progress in achieving the i2010 priorities. Results are reviewed in the i2010 Annual Reports. The indicators are closely aligned with the Lisbon integrated guidelines relevant to ICTs.

<sup>1</sup> This is a list of the actions launched, containing all items officially adopted before adoption of this Annual Report.

Communication 'i2010 — First Annual Report on the European Information Society', COM(2006) 215, 19.05.2006	The Annual Report took stock of the achievements of the first year of implementation of the i2010 initiative and updated the i2010 actions for the period 2006-2007. The associated Commission staff working paper reviewed the i2010 key actions against the background of ICT developments in the EU.
i2010 High Level Conference, Helsinki, 27-28.09.2006	The 2006 high-level conference on i2010, 'i2010 — Towards a Ubiquitous European Information Society', was hosted by the Finnish Presidency. It examined the opportunities and challenges associated with a 'ubiquitous' information society, in which people's ways of life and work will be based on having ICT services available everywhere, at all times.
Fostering the competitiveness of Europe's ICT industry — EU ICT Task Force Report, 27.11.2006	The ICT Task Force recommends a focus on interoperability, developing digital and entrepreneurial skills, strengthening the internal market, reducing patent costs, and promotion of lead markets through public procurement. The task force brought together experts from industry and civil society to identify major obstacles to the competitiveness of the ICT sector.
'The Challenges of Convergence' working paper of the i2010 High Level Group, 12.12.2006	The working paper, prepared together with the Member States in the i2010 High Level Group, highlights various technological, market and policy challenges posed by digital convergence. The paper concludes that the overall legal and regulatory framework is favourable for the further development of convergence, but there might be a need to look at emerging bottlenecks and new business models that change today's ways of delivering services and content to users.
Communication 'i2010 — Annual Information Society Report 2007', COM(2007) 146, 30.03.2007	The second Annual Report, published on 30 March 2007, reviews the Commission's and Member States' progress in implementing the i2010 agenda so far. It also updates the set of actions planned for 2007-2008. Finally, the report sets out the key policy issues for the future to be debated during the mid-term review of the i2010 strategy.
'User and consumer perspective in the context of convergence' working paper of the i2010 High Level Group, 20.04.2007	The issue paper identifies the gaps in the protection of users in the digital environment and reviews options for policy response.
'Content and Convergence' working paper of the i2010 Level Group, 20.04.2007	The issue paper outlines the main economic and cultural challenges arising from digital convergence and points to ways of addressing them that bring benefit in term of European competitiveness, cultural diversity and users' interests.



## 1 — A Single European Information Space

### 1.1 — Delivering services anywhere, anytime over high-speed seamless networks

#### Action 1: Review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications

Communication on market reviews under the EU Regulatory Framework, COM(2006) 28, 06.02.2006	The report reviews the electronic communications markets in 2005.
Communication ‘European Electronic Communications Regulation and Markets 2005 (11 <sup>th</sup> Report)’ COM(2006) 68, 20.02.2006	The Commission publishes regular reports on the Member States’ implementation of the EU framework for electronic communications. The 11 <sup>th</sup> report looks at the latest market developments, mainly in broadband, mobile and fixed services, the regulatory environment and the consumer interest.
Communication on the outcome of the review of the scope of universal service, COM(2006) 163, 07.04.2006	The Commission reviewed the scope of universal service in the Universal Service Directive and concluded that it would not extend the scope of universal service to mobile telephony and broadband. However, a forward-looking policy discussion on this theme continues in the context of the general regulatory review of electronic communications in 2006.
Communication on the review of the EU Regulatory Framework for electronic communications networks and services, COM(2006) 334, 29.06.2006	Based on an analysis of the functioning of the regulatory framework and its impact, the Communication indicated possible changes and launched a public consultation on the proposals. At the same time, comments were invited on the draft second edition of the Commission Recommendation on Relevant Product and Service Markets. The two main proposals are to implement the Commission’s policy approach to spectrum management and to reduce the burden of reviews of relevant markets by streamlining the procedures. Other changes proposed would strengthen the internal market, reinforce consumer interests, improve security and generally update the framework.
Proposal for a Regulation on roaming on public mobile networks within the Community,	The proposed Regulation does not fix an ideal price for roaming charges but applies a method that ensures, through price ceilings, that mobile roaming charges are not unjustifiably higher than those for domestic mobile phone use. The proposed

COM(2006) 382, 12.07.2006	regulation also enhances price transparency.
Communication ‘European Electronic Communications Regulation and Markets 2006 (12 <sup>th</sup> Report)’ COM(2007) 155, 29.03.2007	The Commission report took a snapshot of Europe's telecom markets in 2006, worth almost €290 billion in revenues, just prior to the reform of the EU telecom rules. It included individual chapters covering the situation in each EU Member State.
Communication on market reviews under the EU Regulatory Framework (2nd report), COM(2007) 401, 11.07.2007	Although the EU’s telecoms regulatory framework has led to significant benefits for citizens and enterprises alike, important challenges remain for national and European regulators, says the Commission report. It presents the results of 600 draft regulatory decisions sent to the Commission by National Regulatory Authorities. In a number of cases, the report found that the solutions imposed by national regulators to remedy a lack of competition vary considerably, leading to the risk of fragmenting the internal telecoms market to the detriment of consumers and pan-European operators.
Communication on Strengthening the Internal Market for Mobile TV. COM(2007) 409, 18.07.2007	The Commission has adopted a strategy favouring the take-up of mobile TV across the 27 EU Member States. The Commission urges Member States and industry to facilitate and accelerate the deployment of mobile TV across Europe and to encourage the use of DVB-H as the single European standard for mobile TV.
Proposals for a reform of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications, 13.11.2007:  Proposal for a Directive amending Directives 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services, 2002/19/EC on access to, and interconnection of, electronic communications networks and services, and 2002/20/EC on the authorisation of electronic communications networks and services, COM(2007) 697;  Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2002/22/EC on universal service and users’ rights relating to electronic communications networks, Directive 2002/58/EC concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 on consumer	The ‘Telecoms Reform Package’, which was presented by the Commission on 13 November 2007, will change the EU telecoms rules adopted in 2002. It is expected to become law by the end of 2009 and includes the following main features:  - New consumer rights such as the right to switch telecoms operators within 1 day; the right to transparent and comparable price information; the possibility to call freephone numbers from abroad; and a more effective single European emergency number 112.  - More consumer choice through more competition, especially by giving national telecoms regulators the new remedy of functional separation for dominant telecom operators.  - More security in using communication networks, especially through new instruments to fight spam, viruses and other cyber attacks.  - A ‘New Deal’ for radio spectrum — the lifeblood of all wireless communication services — to spur investment in new infrastructures and to ensure ‘broadband access for everyone’. In rural areas of the EU, only 72% of the population on average have broadband access. The Commission wants to overcome this ‘digital divide’ by better managing radio spectrum and by making spectrum available for wireless broadband services in regions where building a new fibre infrastructure is too costly. The switchover from analogue to digital TV will free a substantial amount of radio spectrum (the ‘digital dividend’) that can be used for this purpose.

<p>protection cooperation, COM(2007) 698;</p> <p>Proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Electronic Communications Market Authority, COM(2007) 699;</p> <p>Communication — Reaping the full benefits of the digital dividend in Europe: A common approach to the use of the spectrum released by the digital switchover, COM(2007) 700;</p> <p>Commission recommendation on relevant product and service markets, C(2007) 5406 rev 1;</p> <p>Report on the outcome of the Review of the regulatory framework and summary of the 2007 reform proposals, COM(2007) 696</p>	<p>- Better regulation in telecoms by deregulating those markets where EU-driven market-opening has already led to competition; this will allow the Commission and national regulators to focus on the main bottlenecks, such as the broadband market.</p> <p>- More independent watchdogs to guarantee fair regulation in the interest of consumers. Too often, telecoms regulators are still close to the dominant operator, which continues to be partly owned by the national government in many countries. The EU Telecoms Reform is designed to strengthen the independence of national telecoms watchdogs from operators and governments alike.</p> <p>To quickly and effectively implement the reform, the Commission proposes establishing a European Telecom Market Authority that will help ensure that important communication services (such as Internet broadband access, data roaming, mobile phone usage on planes and ships and cross-border business services) are regulated more consistently across the 27 EU Member States. The European Telecom Market Authority will more effectively combine the functions of the current European Regulators Group (ERG) and the current European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).</p> <p>To become law, the Commission proposals need to be approved by the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers.</p>
<p>Communication ‘Progress report on the single European electronic communications market 2007 (13<sup>th</sup> Report)’ COM(2008) 153, 19.03.2008</p>	<p>The progress report presented a snapshot of Europe’s Single Telecoms Market as of December 2007, based on facts and figures from national telecoms regulators and market players.</p>
<p><b>Action 2: Making spectrum management more efficient</b></p>	
<p>Communication on a forward-looking radio spectrum policy for the European Union — Second annual report, COM(2005) 411, 06.09.2005</p>	<p>The Spectrum Policy Report identified policy priorities for more flexible spectrum management and an action plan for their implementation.</p>
<p>Communication on a market-based approach to spectrum management in the European Union, COM(2005) 400, 14.09.2005</p>	<p>The Communication paved the way for the coordinated introduction of secondary trading of radio frequencies in the Union by 2010.</p>

Communication on EU spectrum policy priorities for the digital switchover, COM(2005) 461, 29.09.2005	The Communication provided guidance for international spectrum negotiations in the ITU Regional Radiocommunications Conference (RRC-06) with particular reference to the spectrum implications of the digital switchover.
Commission Decision 2005/513/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 5 GHz frequency band for the implementation of Wireless Access Systems including Radio Local Area Networks (WAS/RLANs), 11.07.2005	This decision makes available in all Member States a substantial amount of radio spectrum for radio local area networks (RLANs) — commonly known as ‘Wi-Fi’ — to provide access on the move to the Internet and private networks.
Commission Decision 2005/928/EC on the harmonisation of the 169.4-169.8125 MHz frequency band in the Community (frequency band originally designated for the ERMES paging system), 20.12.2005	Spectrum bands reserved for paging systems no longer in use were reallocated in the whole EU to special needs applications such as hearing aids and emergency alarms.
Commission Decisions: 2006/771/EC on the harmonisation of the radio spectrum for use by short-range devices, 09.11.2006; and 2006/804/EC on the harmonisation of the radio spectrum for radio frequency identification (RFID) devices operating in the ultra high frequency (UHF) band, 23.11.2006	The two Decisions, applicable throughout the EU, specify harmonised conditions for the use of radio spectrum for a large range of low-power short-range radio transmitters. Thanks to these Decisions, consumers will not need to worry whether a wireless product bought in one Member State will work in another. One harmonisation measure covers RFIDs in the UHF band and the other addresses certain equipment categories of relevance today, but also has a built-in mechanism to extend it to new devices.
Communication on rapid access to spectrum for wireless electronic communications services through more flexibility, COM(2007) 50, 08.02.2007	The aim of this Communication is to set out the practical steps necessary from now until 2010 to pave the way towards more flexible spectrum management in bands used for electronic communications services with individual rights of use.
Commission Decision 2007/98/EC on the harmonised use of radio spectrum in the 2 GHz frequency bands for the implementation of systems providing mobile satellite services, 14.02.2007	This Decision is an important step in facilitating the introduction of new and innovative Mobile Satellite Service systems providing services such as satellite data casting or multimedia broadcasting (including mobile TV) via a coordinated EU approach.
Commission Decision on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-	This harmonising decision outlines mandatory conditions for using ultra-wideband (UWB) technology in new-generation wireless devices (such as laptops, mobile phones, digital cameras) in the EU. It allows innovators to use this new technology

wideband technology in a harmonised manner in the Community, 21.02.2007	throughout the EU without interference with other wireless users. With UWB, many electronic devices so far linked by cable will have a wireless alternative offering the same data rates.
Communication on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in Europe: Steps towards a policy framework, COM(2007) 96, 13.3.2007	From today's simple radio tags to tomorrow's intelligent and networked systems, RFID applications will create many opportunities for business and society. But the more intensive and extensive use of RFID also raises questions in the areas of privacy, security, technological reliability and international compatibility. The Communication on RFID identifies RFID-related issues of high importance for Europe, together with a plan for future action at European level.
Commission Decision 2007/344/EC on harmonised availability of information regarding spectrum use within the Community, 16.05.2007	Radio spectrum users will soon benefit from greater clarity on what spectrum is available and how this may be used across Europe. The Decision defines a common format and level of detail for information that Member States should provide. This common approach will permit the establishment of a single information point containing comparable data.
Communication 'The ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07)', COM(2007) 371, 02.07.2007	The Communication outlines the EU's positions on what needs to be achieved at the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in areas such as future terrestrial mobile systems, Earth exploration, digital radio broadcasting, and aviation applications.
Proposal for a Directive repealing Council Directive 87/372/EEC on the frequency bands to be reserved for the coordinated introduction of public pan-European cellular digital land-based mobile communications in the Community COM(2007) 367, 25.07.2007	The Commission has proposed measures to make it easier and more lucrative for mobile operators in Europe to offer and develop innovative wireless technologies. By opening radio spectrum for advanced mobile data and multimedia services (such as 3G services that allow video streaming and fast downloads on a mobile handset), the Commission proposals, if they become law, will increase the number and choice of wireless services available, and will expand their geographic coverage to the benefit of all European citizens. The new EU measures will also reduce network deployment costs for Europe's wireless communications industry.
Proposal for a Decision on the selection and authorisation of systems providing mobile satellite services (MSS), COM(2007) 480, 22.08.2007	If adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, this new selection mechanism will allow innovative services, such as mobile TV, broadband data and emergency communications, to develop smoothly throughout Europe from 2009.
Communication 'Reaping the full benefits of the digital dividend in Europe: A common approach to the use of the spectrum released by the digital switchover', COM(2007) 700, 13.11.2007	(See Action 1, Proposals for a reform of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications)

**Action 3: A consistent internal market framework promoting the development of high quality and innovative information society and media services**

Commission Recommendation on collective cross-border management of copyright and related rights for legitimate online music services (2005/737/EC), 18.10.2005	The Recommendation puts forward measures for improving EU-wide licensing of copyright for online services. The development of EU-wide copyright licenses should allow new online music services to develop their full potential.
Proposal for a Directive on payment services in the internal market, COM(2005) 603, 01.12.2005	The proposed Directive brings down existing legal barriers in order to create a ‘Single Payments Area’ in the EU. The aim is to make cross-border payments — by credit card, debit card, electronic bank transfer, direct debit or any other means — as easy, cheap and secure as ‘national’ payments within one Member State.
Legislative proposal for an Audiovisual Media Services Directive (revision of the ‘Television Without Frontiers’ Directive), COM(2005) 646, 13.12.2005	The proposal aims to create a single framework for all types of audiovisual media services, irrespective of the technology used to transmit or receive them. The objective is to create a level playing field for the different providers of audiovisual content and provide operators of non-linear audiovisual media services with the legal certainty necessary to offer their services on a pan-European basis. The proposal is on track for adoption by the European Parliament and the Council.
Commission Decision on re-use of Commission information (2006/291/EC), 07.04.2006	The Decision determines the conditions for the re-use of documents held by the Commission or on its behalf by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities with the aim of facilitating wider re-use of this information.
European Charter for the Development and the Take-up of Film Online, 23.05.2006	The Charter identifies commendable practices for bringing film online via legitimate services and in a consumer-friendly way. It was initiated by the Commission and agreed by business leaders at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006. It aims to be the point of reference for the film and content industry, Internet service providers and telecom operators.
Adoption of the MEDIA 2007 Programme, Decision 1718/2006/EC, 15.11.2006	Launched on 11.02.2007, the MEDIA 2007 programme will provide a €755 million boost to Europe’s film industry over the next seven years. Almost 65% of the budget will help broaden the circulation of European works to other countries in Europe and worldwide. MEDIA 2007 provides easier access to finance and promotes increased use of digital technologies.
Adoption of the eContentplus 2006 Work Programme and call for proposals	The work programme set the following objectives for 2006: geographic information, educational content, digital libraries (cultural and scientific/scholarly content), and reinforcing cooperation between digital content stakeholders.
Commission staff working paper on media pluralism, SEC(2007) 32, 16.01.2007	Responding to political concerns about media concentration and its possible effects on pluralism and freedom of expression, the Commission presented a three-step approach to advancing the debate on media pluralism in the EU.

Green Paper on the Review of the Consumer Acquis, COM(2006) 744, 08.02.2007	The Green Paper launched a major new drive to adapt core EU consumer rules to the challenges of the fast-changing digital world. The paper identified a number of problems with the current legislation in the area of consumer protection, presented the main options for reform and initiated a public consultation.
Communication ‘A single market for citizens — Interim Report to the 2007 Spring European Council’, COM(2007) 60, 21.02.2007	The report sketched out a new vision for the single market of the future. It was followed later in 2007 by a full review of the single market (see below).
Single market review package: Communication on a single market for 21 <sup>st</sup> century Europe, COM(2007) 724 and associated documents, 20.11.2007	The Communication concludes the review initiated in 2006 and transforms the ‘vision paper’ of February 2007 into an operational set of initiatives to re-position the single market. Among the many measures announced, the Commission intends to propose a European e-Invoicing Framework, an action plan on e-authentication and e-signatures, a standardisation strategy, as well as an initiative on universal service in support of an Information Society for all, in line with the new reform proposals for EU telecom rules.
Communication on a European approach to media literacy in the digital environment, COM(2007) 833, 20.12.2007	The Communication is the first EU-level policy document on media literacy — the ability of people to critically analyse what they find in the media and to make more informed choices. The document focuses on: 1) media literacy for commercial communication, covering issues related to advertising, 2) media literacy for audiovisual works, which is in part about raising awareness of European film and enhancing creativity skills, 3) and online media literacy, which, for example, will give citizens a better understanding of how Google and other Internet search engines work.
Communication on creative content online in the Single Market, COM(2007) 836, 03.01.2008	The Communication launched actions to support the development of innovative business models and the cross-border delivery of diverse online creative content services. The Commission has identified four main, horizontal challenges that merit further action at EU level: 1) availability of creative content, 2) multi-territory licensing for creative content, 3) interoperability and transparency of Digital Rights Management systems (DRMs) and 4) legal offers and piracy. The Communication opened a public consultation in order to prepare, by mid-2008, an EU Recommendation on Creative Content Online.
<b>1.2 — Increasing security of networks</b>	

<b>Action 4: Strategy for a secure European Information Society — increasing trust and confidence</b>	
Report on the operation of the Directive on electronic signatures, COM(2006) 120, 15.03.2006	The report reviews the operation of the Directive on electronic signatures. Most applications are found in the field of e-banking and e-government but the use of qualified electronic signatures has been much lower than expected.
Communication ‘A strategy for a Secure Information Society — Dialogue, partnership and empowerment’ COM(2006) 251, 31.05.2006	The strategy builds a framework and develops synergies among the various policy initiatives for network and information security. It calls for a structured process of consultation and dialogue with relevant stakeholders, including public administrations, the private sector, individual users and the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).
Communication on fighting spam, spyware and malicious software, COM(2006) 688, 15.11.2006	Despite existing EU legislation outlawing spam, Europe continues to suffer from illegal online activities both from inside the EU and from third countries. The Commission stresses that national authorities must step up their prosecution of such activities. The Communication takes stock of the efforts made so far to fight these threats and identifies further action that can be taken.
Communication concerning the final evaluation of the Safer Internet Action Plan (2003-2004), COM(2006) 663, 6.11.2006	The final evaluation of the first generation of Safer Internet activities is a necessary step for further policy development, including the presentation of a new programme in 2008.
Communication on the implementation of the Safer Internet plus programme (2005-2008) COM(2006) 661, 6.11.2006	Assessment of the first phase of operation of the programme provides the basis for defining the complete financial framework for the Programme.
Adoption of the Safer Internet plus 2006 Work Programme and call for proposals	The 2006 call addressed all action lines under the Programme. For actions to fight illegal content and raise awareness, the call invited proposals from Member States where no hotline or awareness nodes had previously been established.
European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP), COM(2006) 786, 12.12.2006	Critical infrastructure can be damaged, destroyed or disrupted by deliberate acts of terrorism, natural disasters, negligence, accidents, as well as computer hacking, criminal activity and malicious behaviour. The Commission presented a package of new measures to improve the protection of critical infrastructure in Europe, including critical ICT infrastructure.
Decision C(2007) 249 on reserving the national numbering range beginning with ‘116’ for harmonised numbers for harmonised services of	The Commission adopted a Decision reserving the 116 000 telephone number in all Member States as a hotline for reporting missing children. Calling 116 000 will be free of charge and the number was to be operational throughout Europe by the summer of 2007. It is up to the Member States to select an association or authority to manage this service. All other numbers



social value, 12.02.2007	beginning with 116 are also reserved for social services in Europe.
Communication ‘Promoting Data Protection by Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs)’ COM(2007) 228, 02.05.2007	The Communication identifies the benefits of Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETs) and lays down the Commission’s objectives in this field. Those objectives are to be achieved through a number of specific actions supporting the development of PETs and their use by data controllers and consumers.
Communication ‘Towards a general policy on the fight against cyber crime’, COM(2007) 267, 22.05.2007	The Commission has outlined actions to improve cooperation between law enforcement authorities and between law enforcement and private sector operators in fighting cyber crime. The actions will complement other actions taken at national, European and international level.
Proposal for Decision establishing a multiannual Community programme on protecting children using the Internet and other communication technologies, COM(2008) 106, 27.02.2008	Safer Internet 2009-2013 builds upon the successful Safer Internet plus programme and will have a budget of €55 million. Encompassing recent Web 2.0 communications services such as social networking, the new programme will fight not only illegal content but also harmful conduct such as grooming and bullying.
<b>2 — Innovation and investment in research</b>	
<b>2.1 — Promoting research and innovation</b>	
<b>Action 5: Strengthening European research through the Framework Programmes</b>	
Launch of the European Technology Platforms (ETPs), 2005-2006	European Technology Platforms help industrial and academic research communities in specific technology fields to coordinate their research and tailor it to a common ‘strategic research agenda’. Nine Platforms have been launched in ICT areas: nanoelectronics (ENIAC), embedded systems (ARTEMIS), mobile and wireless communications (eMobility),

	networked electronic media (NEM), networked software and services (NESSI), robotics (EUROP), photonics (PHOTONICS21), satellite communications (ISI) and smart systems integration (EPoSS).
Adoption of Decisions establishing the 7 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research (2007-2013), Decision No 1982/2006/EC, 18.12.2006, and others (2006/971/EC, 19.12.2006 — Specific Programme ‘Cooperation’)	The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) bundles all research-related EU initiatives together under a common roof and has a crucial role to play in reaching the goals of growth, competitiveness and employment. The broad objectives of FP7 are grouped into four categories: Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities. The ICT priority theme is addressed mainly in the ‘Cooperation’ Specific Programme.
Adoption of the ICT Work Programme 2007-2008 under the 7 <sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research (FP7)	The Work Programme for the ICT theme of the FP7 Specific Programme ‘Cooperation’ defines the priorities and criteria for the calls for proposals to be launched in 2007. It addresses seven ‘challenges’ of strategic interest to European society (1. Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructures; 2. Cognitive systems, interaction and robotics; 3. Components, systems and engineering; 4. Digital libraries and content; 5. Sustainable and personalised healthcare; 6. Mobility, environmental sustainability and energy efficiency; 7. Independent living and inclusion), along with research into ‘future and emerging technologies’ and support for horizontal actions, such as international cooperation. Furthermore, research e-Infrastructures will be supported through the Research Infrastructures Work Programme for the ‘Capacities’ programme.
Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of the ‘ARTEMIS Joint Undertaking’ to implement a Joint Technology Initiative in Embedded Computing Systems, COM(2007) 243, 15.05.2007	The Commission has proposed to launch a new kind of Europe-wide public-private R&D partnership — Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) — in embedded computing systems. JTIs will pool industry, Member State and Commission resources to conduct targeted research programmes. They will move away from the traditional case-by-case public research funding approach towards large-scale research programmes with common strategic research targets.
Proposal for a Council Regulation Setting up the ‘ENIAC Joint Undertaking’, COM(2007) 356, 22.06.2007	The second Commission proposal for a Joint Technology Initiative concerns nanoelectronics. This Europe-wide public-private research partnership, called ENIAC, is to have a €3bn budget from industry, the Member States and the Commission, and aims to create a strong nanoelectronics research and manufacturing sector in Europe. The ultimate aim is to generate innovative products with in-built intelligence in numerous areas such as the consumer electronics, automotive, healthcare and environmental management sectors.
<b>Action 6: Making innovation and research policies more efficient</b>	
Action Plan for European Standardisation, April 2006	This four-year rolling action plan outlines the main actions to be implemented, including in the area of ICTs, and defines a timeframe for carrying out these actions, subject to a review after 2 years.

Communication 'Putting knowledge into practice: a broad-based innovation strategy for the EU', COM(2006) 502, 13.09.2006	This 10-point programme urges action at national and European levels to foster innovation in the EU economy. The Commission outlines the concept of lead markets where public authorities facilitate industry-led innovation by creating conditions for the successful market uptake of innovative products and services in key areas of societal demands.
Communication to the European Council informal meeting in Lahti: An innovation-friendly, modern Europe. COM(2006) 589, 12.10.2006	The document focuses on several specific measures that could boost Europe's innovative capacity in a relatively short period of time. The proposed measures concern the establishment of European leadership in future strategic technologies, forging stronger links between universities, research and business, as well as improving the framework conditions for R&D investment.
Launch of a European Network of Living Labs, 20.11.2006	The European Network of Living Labs creates a platform where firms, public authorities and citizens can work together on developing and testing new technologies, business models and services in real-life contexts. The ultimate aim is to set up a new European Innovation Infrastructure where users play an active role in innovation.
Preparation of the ICT PSP Work Programme 2007	The ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP) in the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) will support the aims of the i2010 strategy, building on the previous e-TEN, Modinis and e-Content programmes. In 2007 the programme will focus on three main themes: efficient and interoperable eGovernment services; ICTs for accessibility, ageing and social integration; and ICTs for sustainable and interoperable health services.
Communication on pre-commercial procurement: driving innovation to ensure sustainable high quality public services in Europe, COM(2007) 799, 14.12.2007	The Communication proposes a new strategy for harnessing the innovative potential of public spending in Europe in the field of Research and Development (R&D). Europe could do substantially more at the pre-commercial stage, where products and services are not yet ripe for the market, and where investment is particularly risk-prone but crucial for research breakthroughs. For the Commission, such pre-commercial procurement could tap unused potential especially in high-tech areas, such as research into information and communication technologies for health care and medicine. The strategy launches a debate with the 27 EU Member States on where and how to focus the pre-commercial procurement of R&D.
Communication 'A lead market initiative for Europe', COM(2007) 860 21.12.2007	Europe can develop innovation-friendly markets in a more targeted way, considerably facilitating the marketing of innovations. That is what the Lead Markets Initiative seeks to do. eHealth is one of the six markets identified for the initial stage of the initiative. The Commission presents ambitious action plans for these markets to rapidly secure tangible advantages for Europe's economy and consumers.
<b>2.2 — Promoting ICT innovation and adoption for competitiveness and employment</b>	

<b>Action 7: Promoting eBusiness solutions</b>	
Establishment of the Enterprise Interoperability Centre (EIC), April 2006	The EIC provides a platform for companies to discuss interoperability issues in their business relationships, with the focus on business-to-business processes, taking into account the various messaging standards available in each industry.
<b>3 — Inclusion, better public services and quality of life</b>	
<b>3.1 — Facilitating wider inclusion, accessibility and digital literacy</b>	
<b>Action 8: Further development of eAccessibility and a comprehensive eInclusion strategy</b>	
Communication on eAccessibility COM(2005) 425, 13.09.2005	The Communication calls upon the Member States to do more to promote eAccessibility and to encourage take-up by industry. While continuing to support measures such as standardisation, Design for All, web accessibility and research, the Commission also proposes: to improve the consistency of accessibility requirements in public procurement; to explore certification schemes for accessible products and services; and to make better use of the ‘eAccessibility potential’ of existing legislation.
Communication ‘Bridging the broadband gap’, COM(2006) 129, 20.03.2006	The Communication focuses on the lack of adequate broadband services in the less developed areas of the Union. It assesses the instruments available at EU level to address this issue and proposes two main strands of action: the strengthening of national broadband strategies to set clear targets and reflect regional needs; and better exchange of best practice.

Riga Ministerial Declaration on eInclusion, 11.06.2006	The ministerial conference in Riga launched preparations for the 2008 European Initiative on eInclusion. The concluding declaration set priorities and commitments for addressing the needs of older people, reducing geographical digital divides, enhancing eAccessibility, improving digital literacy and promoting cultural diversity as well as inclusive eGovernment.
Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning, (2006/962/EC), 18.12.2006	Every citizen must be equipped with the skills needed to live and work in the new information society. The European Parliament and the Council adopted the Commission proposal for a Recommendation providing a European reference tool on key competences, including digital competence, and on access to these competences through lifelong learning.
Communication ‘E-skills for the 21st century: fostering competitiveness, growth and jobs’, COM(2007) 496, 07.09.2007	Recent surveys indicate that Europe may face severe e-skills shortages in the coming years. At the same time, e-skills are becoming central to productivity, employability and the response to global challenges. The Commission has therefore proposed a long-term e-skills agenda and a set of actions at EU level.
Communication ‘European i2010 initiative on e-Inclusion — To be part of the information society’, COM(2007) 694, 08.11.2007	Despite technological progress and enhanced competition, more than one in three Europeans are still excluded from the full benefits of the digital society. To address this, the Commission sets out a European initiative to: 1) enable everyone to take part in the information society by bridging the accessibility, broadband and competence gaps; 2) boost the effective participation of those at risk of exclusion, and improve their quality of life; and 3) integrate e-Inclusion actions in Europe, so as to maximise their lasting impact. Among other things, the Communication announces a 2008 awareness-raising campaign ‘e-Inclusion, be part of it!’ and a ministerial conference at the end of that year.
<b>3.2 — Providing better public services</b>	
<b>Action 9: Promoting ICT-enabled public services (eGovernment and eHealth)</b>	
Commission decision on e-Commission 2006-2010: enabling efficiency and transparency, C(2005) 4473, 23.11.2005	The Commission intends to lead by example by applying eGovernment to its own administration. The e-Commission initiative aims to deliver better-quality and more transparent services, guaranteeing security of information including the protection of personal data.
Communication on interoperability for pan-European eGovernment services, COM(2006) 45,	Interoperability in eGovernment requires that the multiple layers of government at national, regional and local levels are able to ‘talk to each other’. The Communication calls upon the Member States and industry to collaborate to make such

13.02.2006	interoperability happen. More concrete steps follow in the eGovernment Action Plan.
Communication on i2010 eGovernment Action Plan: Accelerating eGovernment in Europe for the Benefit of All, COM(2006) 173, 25.04.2006	The eGovernment Action Plan addresses five priority areas, with ambitious objectives to be reached by 2010: 1) ensuring all citizens have access to a wide range of technologies; 2) raising administrative efficiency; 3) implementing e-Procurement; 4) ensuring secure access to services across the EU; and 5) strengthening participation and democratic decision-making.
EU Health Portal 'Health-EU', launched 10.05.2006	Health-EU provides a single point of entry where citizens, administrations and specialists can find a wealth of health-related information and data from EU, national and sub-national levels. It is accessible at <a href="http://health.europa.eu">http://health.europa.eu</a> .
<b>Action 10: Ageing Well in the Information Society</b> — <i>flagship initiative in preparation</i>	
<p>Communication 'Ageing well in the Information Society — An i2010 Initiative — Action Plan on Information and Communication Technologies and Ageing', COM(2007) 332, 14.06.2007</p> <p>Proposal for a Decision on participation by the Community in a research and development programme aimed at enhancing the quality of life of older people through the use of new Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), COM(2007) 329, 14.06.2007</p>	<p>Responding to the needs of Europe's growing ageing population, the Commission adopted a European Action Plan for 'Ageing Well in the Information Society'. The action plan aims to help overcome technical and regulatory barriers to market development, to help raise awareness and share best practice, as well as to accelerate take-up through, for example, pilot projects and a European award scheme for smart homes and independent living applications. In particular, three areas of user needs are to be addressed: ageing well at work or 'active ageing at work', ageing well in the community, as well as ageing well at home.</p> <p>The action plan is accompanied by a new joint European research programme raising to over €1bn the investment on research into ICTs to improve the lives of older people.</p>
<b>Action 11: Intelligent Car</b>	
Second eSafety Communication 'Bringing eCall to Citizens', COM(2005) 431, 14.09.2005	eCall is an in-vehicle safety system: when a car senses a major impact in an accident, its eCall device automatically calls the nearest emergency centre using 112. In response to the slow progress of eCall in the Member States, the Commission urges the national and regional governments to do more. The Communication provides a roadmap for full-scale roll-out of eCall.

Communication on the Intelligent Car Initiative ‘Raising Awareness of ICT for Smarter, Safer and Cleaner Vehicles’, COM(2006) 59, 15.02.2006	The Commission’s Intelligent Car Initiative is a comprehensive initiative for smarter, safer and cleaner vehicles. The long-term objective is a situation where cars no longer crash and traffic congestion is reduced. The Communication presents a policy framework for action, comprising coordination of relevant stakeholders (eSafety Forum), ICT-based research and development, as well as awareness raising and stimulation of user demand.
Third eSafety Communication ‘Bringing eCall back on track — Action Plan’, COM(2006) 723, 23.11.2006	An urgent set of actions to restart moves to roll out emergency call (eCall) technology for cars in Europe has been proposed by the Commission. Member States have been given clear tasks with deadlines for solving the remaining issues and proceeding with the necessary 112, E112 and eCall infrastructures. Industry is asked to renew its commitment to eCall.
Commission Recommendation on safe and efficient in-vehicle information and communication systems: update of the European Statement of Principles on human machine interface (2007/78/EC), 22.12.2006	The Commission has updated the Recommendation on human-machine interfaces in vehicles. This update responds to the increased presence of portable devices in cars such as mobile telephones, PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) or laptops. The objective is to make the design and installation of these systems safer.
Communication ‘Towards Europe-wide safer, cleaner and efficient mobility: the first Intelligent Car report’, COM(2007) 541, 17.09.2007	The Commission has outlined new plans to accelerate the drive for safer, cleaner and smarter cars. The Commission will start negotiations with European and Asian automotive industry associations later this year to reach an agreement on offering the pan-European in-vehicle emergency call system (eCall) as a standard option in all new cars from 2010. It will also further promote the take-up of other life-saving technologies and investigate how technology can help make cars greener and smarter.
<b>Action 12: Digital Libraries</b>	
Communication on digital libraries, COM(2005) 465, 30.09.2005	The Commission is promoting and coordinating work to build a European Digital Library — a common multilingual access point to Europe’s cultural heritage. The Communication proposes a first set of actions in the areas of: digitisation of content stored in traditional formats; online accessibility of this content; and digital preservation. The aim is to make two million books, films, photographs, manuscripts, and other cultural works accessible through the European Digital Library by 2008. This figure will grow to at least six million by 2010.
Commission Decision setting up a High Level Expert Group on digital libraries, (2006/178/EC), 28.02.2006	This advisory group also provides a forum for discussion with stakeholders. Its first contribution on the management of copyright addresses the practical problems of dealing with orphan and out-of-print works and digital preservation.

<p>Commission Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, (2006/585/EC), 24.08.2006</p>	<p>In the Recommendation, the Commission urges Member States to tackle three main areas: the digitisation of cultural material, its online accessibility and digital preservation. The institutions or Member States themselves will be responsible for the selection of the material to be digitised.</p>
<p>Communication on scientific information in the digital age: access, dissemination and preservation, COM(2007) 56, 15.02.2007</p>	<p>The Communication examines how new digital technologies can be better used to increase access to research publications and data. The Commission thereby launches an EU framework to support new ways of promoting better access to scientific information online and to preserve research results digitally for future generations.</p>
<p>Commission Decision setting up the Member States' Expert Group on Digitisation and Digital Preservation (2007/320/EC), 22.03.2007</p>	<p>The group will monitor progress and assess the implementation of the Recommendation on the digitisation and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation, and the Council Conclusions on this topic. It will also be a forum for sharing strategies and best practice.</p>
<p><b>Action 13: ICTs for sustainable growth</b> — <i>flagship initiative in preparation</i></p>	



#### 4. i2010 — planned actions

1 — A Single European Information Space	
Develop a broadband performance index	The Commission will monitor the development of the EU Internet economy through a broadband performance index to be launched in 2008.
Communication on the future of networks and the Internet	The Communication will address the policy implications of current developments in the Internet and e-communications to ensure that business and citizens in the EU can benefit from top-class communications networks and services in the future.
Recommendation concerning Next Generation Access	The Commission will enhance legal certainty for stakeholders by issuing, by summer 2008, guidance on the application of the regulatory framework to aspects of new fibre investment in the local access network.
Recommendation on RFID	The Recommendation will aim to promote the 'Internet of Things' and in particular will address privacy and security issues.
Communication on Critical Infrastructure Protection — CIIP	The aim is to put into operation preventive, detection, emergency and recovery measures to ensure high level of resilience of critical communication networks and information infrastructure (such as the Internet) and continuity of services.
Communication on IPv6	The current generation of the Internet will "run out of space" in the near future (2010/2011) if IPv6 - the 6 <sup>th</sup> version of the Internet Protocol - is not adopted around the world. IPv6 will also make the Internet more stable, efficient, powerful, secure and private, and so is crucial for the development of the Information Society. The Commission will propose a set of actions to facilitate the transition to IPv6.
Support the adoption of the regulatory package for e-Communications and in particular the creation of the EECMA	See the Commission proposals summarised in part 3: i2010 list of actions, section 1.1 — delivering services anywhere, anytime over high-speed seamless networks, action 1: review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications. Among others, the Commission proposed to set up a European Electronic Communications Market Authority (EECMA).
Make spectrum management more efficient	Make spectrum management more efficient by facilitating the harmonisation and trading of the pan-European part of frequencies.
Report on universal service obligations	The Commission is required to review in 2008 the scope of the universal service provisions in the current e-communications

	framework adopted in 2002 and, where appropriate, to come forward with proposals.
Guide on users' rights and obligations in the digital environment	Market players are not sufficiently aware of their rights and obligations in the new digital environment. The Commission will prepare a guide explaining the rights and obligations of information society players, including consumers, under existing Community legislation. This exercise will not cover consumer contract legislation, which is currently under review (see Green Paper on the consumer <i>acquis</i> ), nor question the existing legislation.
Launch next phase of the consumer <i>acquis</i> review — Framework Directive on Consumer Contractual Rights	The results of the public consultation on the consumer <i>acquis</i> green paper have shown a strong need for a revision of the existing EU consumer protection legislation. Subject to the result of the impact assessment, the Commission intends to table a proposal for a Framework Directive on Consumer Contractual Rights in the second half of 2008. The Framework Directive will aim at increasing consumer and business confidence in cross-border transactions (including transactions concluded in the context of eCommerce) by simplifying and improving the consumer regulatory framework.
Communication on privacy and trust in the ubiquitous information society	While creating huge benefits, new ICT applications and services may also pose new threats to the privacy of citizens, when they leave data traces of their many daily actions without citizens even being aware or able to control the process. The Communication will analyse the challenges to privacy and trust, and assess options for policy response, including non-legislative and legislative measures.
Launch of Content Online Platform	The Platform, as announced in the Communication on creative content online, will provide a stakeholders' discussion and cooperation forum to initiate work on forthcoming challenges in this area.
Recommendation on content online	Building upon the Communication on creative content online (see Section 1.1. Action 3), the recommendation will address in particular the interoperability and transparency of DRMs for consumers.
<b>2 — Innovation and investment in research</b>	
Improvements to the EU ICT standardisation system	The Commission has been working on improving ICT standardisation and will come forward with a proposal by the end of 2008.
Action plan to further promote implementation of mutually recognised and interoperable electronic signatures and e-authentication	As announced in the 2007 Single Market Review, the Commission will present in 2008 a specific Action Plan to further promote the implementation of mutually recognised and interoperable electronic signatures and e-authentication (electronic identity) among the Member States, thereby facilitating the provision of cross-border public services.

European electronic invoicing framework	The informal Task Force on eInvoicing concluded (in the June 2007 report) that the Commission should set up an Expert Group to develop a European eInvoicing Framework (EEI framework) and propose solutions to the existing legal barriers, trust and operational risk barriers and standardisation barriers.
Support for Joint Technology Initiatives, European Technology Platforms, Joint National Programmes and ERA coordination actions	Continuation and implementation of initiatives to bring together a critical mass in large-scale, strategic common initiatives. The role of the European Technology Platforms is to be extended to areas such as standards, infrastructures and skills. The Joint Technology Initiatives are to be launched in 2008.
Promoting the role of the public sector as first buyer of R&D services and innovative solutions	Further to the strategy for the pre-commercial procurement of R&D, which was published in December 2007 and launched a public debate, the Commission will propose concrete measures on where and how to best channel such activities.
Communication on ICT research and innovation	The initiative will propose sets of actions in areas of public interest to address specific key societal challenges: research and development, regulation, standardisation and implementation of innovative solutions.
Communication on e-Infrastructures in a changing and global research environment	The document will aim to promote more research coordination and new means of undertaking research supported by powerful computing and communication tools to improve the efficiency and quality of research.
<b>3 — Inclusion, better public services and quality of life</b>	
Develop pan-European public services through large-scale pilots	Complementing the work on eID and eProcurement, which will start in 2008, the ICT Policy Support Programme will also support the implementation of the Services Directive and the reduction of the administrative burden.
Implementation of the eHealth lead market initiative	As announced in the Communication on lead markets (see above List of launched actions, section 3.2), the eHealth lead market initiative will aim to develop a European market for innovative eHealth technologies and to combat fragmentation in the way healthcare is delivered in the different Member States.
Communication ‘Addressing the challenge of Energy Efficiency through Information and Communication Technologies’	The Communication will explore synergies between ICTs, which are part of the problem but also part of the solution to energy efficiency, in a number of promising sectors, such as smart power grids, energy-smart buildings and smart lighting.
Implementation of the eInclusion Initiative	As announced in the Communication ‘European i2010 initiative on e-Inclusion — To be part of the information society’, the initiative will include proposals on eAccessibility, implementation of the flagship initiative on Ageing Well in the Information Society, a review of digital literacy policies, an awareness-raising campaign and a ministerial conference at the

	end of 2008.
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