

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3324/05
by Antoine Duquesne (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Action to promote 112 as a single emergency number

The Council of Ministers decided on 29 July 1991 to make 112 the single emergency number for the whole of Europe, and the Member States were supposed to have introduced that number by 31 December 1992. However, the number 112 only became accessible to people in EU 15 in 1999 and, to date, it is still not being applied in the way stipulated in the directive.

Unfortunately, most Europeans still do not know about the number 112 and in some Member States there are still problems surrounding responses to emergency calls, while technical measures enabling automatic caller localisation are still to be implemented. Incomplete or incorrect implementation of the directives relating to 112, besides failing to achieve the objectives sought, is also liable to have adverse effects that can only be detrimental to European citizens.

What initiatives will the Commission take to ensure that all Member States finally comply with the directives enabling the creation of the 112 emergency number, how will it check that the legislation has actually been implemented and how will it promote greater awareness of that number among European citizens?