

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5995/09  
by Kader Arif (S&D)  
to the Commission

Subject: 'European City Guide' and other misleading directory companies

On 16 December 2008, after having received a large number of petitions on the subject, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on misleading 'directory companies' (P6\_TA(2008)0608) which called on the Commission to make sure businesses, particularly small and medium-sized firms, were better informed of the potential risk of falling victim to 'scams' operated by such companies. Parliament also requested the Commission 'to report by December 2009 on the feasibility and possible consequences of amending Directive 2006/114/EC in such a way as to include a 'black' or 'grey' list of practices that are to be regarded as misleading'.

Could the Commission state what progress has been made towards completing this report, and whether it plans to draw up the 'black' or 'grey' list in question?

Could the Commission explain what measures have been taken to improve the implementation of Directive 2006/114/EC<sup>1</sup>, which is still the principal means of dealing with business directories which engage in misleading practices?

Could the Commission state what means of redress are available for firms which cannot bring the matter before the courts in their home country?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L376 of 27.12.2006, p.21