

**Question for written answer E-3668/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Adina-Ioana Vălean (ALDE)

Subject: 112 number: early warning systems for citizens

Communication of authorities with citizens in case of imminent and/or developing major emergencies or disasters (i.e. early warning or citizens alert) is provided for in several existing directives¹ and has been repeatedly requested by Parliament (see Written declaration 0100/2007, the Parliament reports on the Civil Protection Mechanism and the Civil Protection Financial Instrument², as well as numerous resolutions³).

Early warning systems for citizens should be distinguished from various early warning systems for authorities which depend on the hazard involved (floods, landslides, avalanches, fires, tidal waves, etc.). When the establishment of an early warning for citizens was clearly proposed by Parliament in the context of the recasting of the Civil Protection Mechanism, it was not accepted by the Commission and the Council because it was considered as falling within the scope of telecommunications. A similar amendment proposal was then made in the context of the revision of the Universal Service Directive but was not accepted because it was considered as falling within the scope of Civil Protection.

When will the Commission present the 'appropriate legislative proposals for the establishment of a general, multilingual, simplified and efficient system for alerting citizens about imminent or developing emergencies in the EU, by taking into account all the risks and policies involved' as requested in Written Declaration 0100/2007 on early warning for citizens in major emergencies (signed by 432 MEPs)?

¹ See for example: Directive on the Safety and health signs at work (92/58/EEC); Directive on Major chemical installations (96/82/EC; Seveso Directive); Directive on Radiological Emergencies (89/618/Euratom); Authorisation Directive (2002/20/EC); Directive on the assessment and management of floods (2007/60/EC); directives dealing with the transport of dangerous goods and Directive (2008/114/EC) on European Critical Infrastructure.

² . Doc. A6-0286/2006, adopted on 24.10.2006 and A6-0027/2006, adopted on 14.3.2006.

³ See for example resolutions A5-0381/2000 (Priorities in EU road safety); A6-0390/2006 (Management of Terrorism); A6-0286/2006 (Community civil protection mechanism); A6-0149/2006 (Natural Disasters); A6-0027/2006 (Rapid response and preparedness instrument for major emergencies); P6_TA(2005)0334 (Natural disasters - fires and floods); P6_TA(2005)0006 (Tidal wave in the Indian Ocean), P6_TA(2008)0304 (Stepping up the Union's disaster response capacity) and P6_TA(2006)0584 (Prevention, Preparedness and Consequence Management of Terrorism).