

**Question for written answer E-006855/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: EU position on the WIPO Treaty (SCCR/18/5) for Improved Access for Blind, Visually Impaired and other Reading Disabled Persons to protected works

On 12 May 2011, Parliament adopted a resolution in plenary entitled 'Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries' (2010/2156(INI) – P7_TA(2011)0240), expressing its support for the World Intellectual Property Organisation treaty (SCCR/18/5) which aims to improve access for blind, visually impaired and other reading-disabled people to cultural heritage of which only 5% is accessible to them because of the limited availability of books in appropriate formats.

Paragraph 70 of the resolution calls on the Commission 'to work actively and positively within the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to agree on a binding legal norm based on the treaty proposal drafted by the World Blind Union and tabled at WIPO in 2009'.

The treaty aims to harmonise exceptions at international level in order to enable the resources which are key to producing texts in accessible formats to be shared.

The Commission, which represents the EU at WIPO, currently favours non-binding legal norms and voluntary licensing.

1. The European Parliament, which represents the democratic will of EU citizens, has made known its support for the establishment of a binding legal norm. The European Blind Union also backs Parliament's position. How does the Commission therefore account for the position it took at the last meeting of the WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, held in June 2011?
2. How does the Commission intend to take account of Parliament's position?