

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0857/07

by Martin Dimitrov (PPE-DE)

to the Commission

Subject: The possibility of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens being able to make use of the European Commission's Citizens Signpost Service

As yet, very few European citizens are sufficiently familiar with whatever rights they have arising from the Single European Market. According to one of the latest Eurobarometer surveys, fewer than half of Europe's citizens think that they are well informed about their rights. This applies to an even greater extent with regard to the citizens of Romania and Bulgaria - the two countries which joined the Community on 1 January 2007. The growing need for more information about the European Union is borne out by the increased number of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens who have sought information from the experts at the Citizens Signpost Service regarding European provisions and their implementation in practice. Whereas on 1 May 2004 the system was successfully extended so as to be able to deal with queries from the citizens of the newly-acceded 10 countries, currently it is unable to process all the queries coming from Bulgarian and Romanian citizens, nor is it able to offer any answers in the two new official Community languages.

Can the Commission indicate:

Why the Citizens Signpost Service is still unavailable to the citizens of Bulgaria and Romania?

When it is expected that Bulgarian and Romanian citizens will have full access to the Citizens Signpost Service and, further, when will they be able to seek advice in their own language?