

**Question for written answer P-005398/2011
to the Council
Rule 117
Luigi Berlinguer (S&D)**

Subject: European Parliament vote and EU position on the WIPO Treaty for Visually Impaired Persons

On 12 May 2011, the plenary session of the European Parliament adopted a report entitled 'Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries' (INI/2010/2156), that made clear its support for the internationally binding 'Treaty for Visually Impaired and Other Print Disabled Persons' presently being considered at the World Intellectual Property Organization. Article 70 of the report 'Calls on the Commission to work actively and positively within the World Intellectual Property Organization (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'.

To date the EU Council and the European Commission representing the EU position before WIPO, in opposition to the clearly favourable position of the European Parliament have rejected the treaty proposal and have instead supported soft law 'recommendations' and voluntary licences.

Given the position expressed by Parliament that represents the democratic will of European citizens, in favour of a binding legal norm based on the treaty proposal proposed by the World Blind Union and supported by the European Blind Union, how will the Council proceed during the upcoming discussions and special session on this issue at WIPO in June 2011?