

**Question for written answer P-005478/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
Christian Engström (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EP vote and EU's position on the WIPO Treaty for the visually impaired

On 12 May 2011 the EP plenary adopted a report, 'Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries' (INI/2010/2156), which made clear its support for the internationally binding Treaty for the visually impaired and other print-disabled persons now being considered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Article 70 of this 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 Council and Commission, which represent the EU's position at WIPO, have rejected the treaty proposal and have instead supported soft-law 'recommendations' and voluntary licenses.

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