

## European '112' emergency number day

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**The European Day of 112 the Telephone Emergency Number is celebrated today in Poland and throughout the 27-member bloc.**

112 is a toll free number that can be dialled in emergency cases from any EU country to reach emergency services, such as ambulances, fire or police departments.

To mark the occasion members of the European Parliament, including its Vice-President Diana Wallis have called to raise awareness about 112.

The service was established in 1991 by the European Union as the universal emergency number for all its member states who have guaranteed that a person calling for help will be immediately tracked in order for the rescuers to reach them as soon as possible.

According to Eurobarometer polls, a large majority of EU citizens (94 percent) totally agree or tend to agree about the usefulness of having an emergency number available anywhere in the EU.

The general public, however, is still generally unfamiliar with 112 as the European emergency number. Only one in four respondents (24 percent) could spontaneously identify 112 as the number to call for emergency services anywhere in the EU.

To promote the knowledge and use of the number the 112 Foundation was created. It supervises today's events to promote 112 throughout Europe. In Poland, the Association of Professional Paramedics is holding a conference on 112 in Warsaw. **(di/jb)**

More information about the European emergency number can be found **here**.