

E-4509/05 5 December 2005

WRITTEN QUESTION by Chris Davies (ALDE) to the Commission

Subject: Emergency telephone numbers Answer(s)

Is it the Commission's intention to introduce measures that will not only require the adoption of a 112 emergency number by all Member States but also the withdrawal of existing national numbers such as 999 in the UK?

How many Member States have now adopted the 112 emergency number and in how many is this now the only such emergency number?

E-4509/2005 21 December 2005

Answer given by Ms Reding on behalf of the Commission

In accordance with Directive 2002/22/EC, the 'Universal Service' Directive(1), Member States shall ensure that, apart from any other national emergency number specified by national regulatory authorities, all users of telephone services accessible to the public can call the emergency services by dialling the number 112.

The Commission has not proposed and has never had the intention of proposing the withdrawal of national emergency numbers such as 999 in the UK. This decision can only be made by a Member State itself, depending on what it deems appropriate in its specific situation. All Member States have introduced 112 in accordance with Article 26 of Directive 2002/22/EC. Two Member States, Denmark and the Netherlands, have chosen to replace their own existing emergency numbers with 112.

The Universal Service Directive requires the Member States to make the necessary provisions to instruct citizens about the existence and use of 112.

(1) Directive 2002/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 on universal service and users' rights relating to electronic communications networks and services (Universal Service Directive), OJ L 108, 24.4.2002.