

E-0053/07 19 January 2007

WRITTEN QUESTION by Marc Tarabella (PSE) to the Commission

Subject: Awareness of the 112 number among European citizens Answer(s)

When the '.eu' domain was launched, the European Commission reserved for itself the domain name 'www.112.eu', denying it to the European Emergency Number Association (EENA), a non-governmental organisation which has been working for several years to inform European citizens about the emergency number, work which the Commission itself recognises as very useful.

Can the Commission indicate: — the date when it will open this address to the public;

— whether it intends to introduce in the near future a European 112 Day, given the worrying statistics regarding awareness of the 112 number among European citizens;

— how it intends to help the Member States to raise awareness of the 112 number among European citizens?

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Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission

As regards the implementation of the 112 single European emergency number, the Commission is required under the Treaty to ensure that the relevant EU provision, namely Article 26 of Directive 2002/22/EC of the 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)(1), is applied in all of the Member States. While it is the responsibility of the Member States to inform their citizens regarding the number, the Commission, as part of its policy of proactivity in relation to the electronic communications framework, intends, as it has for example in connection with international roaming prices, to use its website to disseminate information to citizens. However, given that 10 infringement proceedings are currently pending in relation to the implementation of 112, the Commission cannot specify the exact date on which this will commence.

The Commission is informed that the European Emergency Number Association (EENA), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), is planning to hold a European 112 day and a

conference to accompany it. It believes this can contribute to the dissemination of information on 112, and will be very interested in the results achieved.

Finally, as stated above, while the Member States are responsible for informing citizens about 112, the Commission intends to bring added European value to the process by disseminating information once the relevant infringement proceedings have been closed satisfactorily.

(1) OJ L 108, 24.4.2002.