

Article

112 a mystery? Reading this could save your life

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If you are unaware of what the phone number "112" means then reading this article could literally save your life. It is the free pan-European emergency number that can be dialled from anywhere inside the 27 countries of the European Union. So, if you are abroad and you need the police, ambulance or fire brigade then you should dial this number. The number does not replace national emergency numbers, but acts in parallel with them. Today is "112 day" and MEPs are keen to raise awareness.

Speaking at a press conference in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, Polish MEP Jacek Saryusz-Wolski of the EPP group said that "150 million EU citizens move across borders a year. They should be able to use well-known practices in case of emergency and call the same number wherever they are".

Raising people's awareness

Referring to the fact that barely a quarter of people are aware that the number exists, British Liberal MEP Diana Wallis said, "there is a great deal of work that needs to be done at a national level".

Another key aim is to make sure the service is totally multi-lingual as a third of people surveyed said they had encountered language problems when calling for help abroad.

This has been the official European emergency number since February 2009. Part of the telecoms legislation passed last year by the parliament made the number more accessible.

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Further information :

112

Attitudes towards 112

Written declaration

Youtube video



11 February marks "European 112 day" to raise awareness of the emergency number ©Belga