



A Letter from Brussels

The European Emergency Number Association shares news from abroad.

1-1-2 Awards Ceremony

The recently announced EENA Advisory Board is delighted to announce that the second 1-1-2 Awards Ceremony was successfully held on the occasion of the joint European Parliament/European Commission media event on the 1-1-2 on June 3, 2008 in Brussels. The purpose of the 1-1-2 Awards Ceremony was to recognize and congratulate individuals and organizations which have contributed to a better 1-1-2 in Europe. The event was attended alongside European Commissioner Viviane Reding, by several vice presidents and members of the European Parliament (MEPs), Belgian and Polish ministers, representatives from the European Commission Staff, from industrial organizations and from emergency services.



Figure 1: Diana Wallis European Parliament Vice President and Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society with their 1-1-2 Awards for Best Political initiatives concerning the European emergency number 1-1-2. Photo courtesy of EENA/Carla Anderson.

The 1-1-2 Awards Ceremony highlighted several best practices in place at the national, regional and local level in the EU (European Union). The first award was given by Kathy Sinnott, MEP, to the Slovenian Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief for all the work they have done to educate citizens on the 1-1-2. This was followed by an award given by European Parliament Vice President Diana Wallis to the Metropolitan Police Force's representative Bob Wadey from the United Kingdom. Thanks to the solution provided by Language Line Services, the Metropolitan Police Force can answer emergency calls in 170 languages. Some may think that answering in so many languages is not useful. This was contradicted by Wadey who claimed that 72 languages had already been used by his services. Dieter Nuessler, President of FEU—Federation of the European Union Fire Officer Associations—gave an award to Mark Wood, from the Cellular Emergency Alert System Association, for his contribution to public warning. Wood then made a significant speech requesting the EU to “reduce citizens’ vulnerability” by developing a “reverse 1-1-2” alert system.

After the dinner, Commissioner Viviane Reding and European Parliament Vice President Wallis were both given an award for their

Links

EENA 1-1-2 Newsletter on the 1-1-2 Awards Ceremony:
www.eena.org/preview/en/Awards/Flash_news3.html
 Pictures of the event: www.eventattitude.net/eena

political initiatives towards a better 1-1-2 (see **Figure 1**). It was the first time that the European Commission and Parliament were “hand in hand” (literally speaking) to promote 1-1-2. Marc Tarabella, Walloon Minister of Training (Belgium), presented the Dutch National 1-1-2 Centre an award for its achievements, i.e. *more than 4 million mobile calls a year, handling of caller location, eCalls and 1-1-2 accessible for people with disabilities*.

The Citizen and First Responder 1-1-2 Award were then given to three-year old Krystian Drozdek and Dorota Krolak from the Lodz Emergency Service. On October 21, 2007, Krystian called the 1-1-2 because his mom was not feeling well and was about to fall into coma. The 1-1-2 operator, Krolak, sent the appropriate help at the right place so that Krystian's mom was saved. Saryusz-Wolski, Member of the European Parliament, provided the audience with a request to his colleagues of the European Parliament to make sure that they advertise the European emergency number 1-1-2 during the 2009 election campaign for the European Parliament and to ask for more involvement from the Council.

The 3rd 1-1-2 Awards Ceremony will be organized next year around February 11, 2009 which will be celebrated as the 2nd European 112 Day.

For more information, contact Gary Machado at gm@eena.org

New European Commission Web site of the European Emergency Number 1-1-2

During the joint European Parliament/European Commission media event on the 1-1-2 held on June 3, 2008 in Brussels, the European Commission announced the launch of a new Web site dedicated to the 1-1-2 that contains details about the status of implementation of the 1-1-2 in each Member State of the European Union.

Visit this Web site at <http://ec.europa.eu/112>.

Preparing the New 1-1-2 Legislative Framework

Since the proposals made in the “Telecom package” by the European Commission, the EENA Advisory Board is helping several Members of the European Parliament with its expertise to make sure that the next legislation that will be implemented in the Member States of the European Union by 2010 gives a major impulse to emergency communications to protect citizens. In this context, the Chairman of the EENA Advisory Board, Dr. Demetrios Pyrros participated in a public hearing at the European Parliament organized on May 6, 2008 and was congratulated for his excellent contribution.

The EENA Advisory Board also organized a meeting on caller location and the 1-1-2 on June 4, 2008 with the participation of emergency services, industry representatives and several Members of the European Parliament to help them understand the technical feasibility of caller location and therefore the need to make sure that it is available everywhere in the European Union. **EENA**

For more information or to watch the video of Dr. Demetrios Pyrros participation in the public hearing, visit www.eena.org.