

[Print this Page](#)[Close Window](#)**EU emergency phone number rings no bells with citizens**

Posted on : 2008-02-11 | Author : DPA

News Category : Europe

Brussels - Barely a fifth of European Union citizens know that the 27-member bloc's common emergency phone number is 112, officials in Brussels said Monday. Only 22 per cent of EU citizens know that dialling the number will link them with the emergency services in any EU country, while only 6 per cent of Britons and Italians and 4 per cent of Greeks are aware of the number, a survey by the Gallup Organization Hungary revealed.

The European Commission - the EU's executive - chose Monday as the day to publicize the findings because the date, February 11, is written "11/2" in European countries.

And the Brussels-based body marked the day by calling on national governments and telecoms companies to publicize the number better.

"There is significant room for national authorities to better inform their citizens ... Only informed citizens will be able to make use of 112 in case of accidents," a commission statement said.

In 2003, the EU adopted common telecoms standards which for the first time obliged all member states to adopt 112 as an emergency number alongside their national emergency number. Bulgaria is the only one of the EU's 27 member states not to have done so.

However, the majority of EU citizens polled remain ignorant of the innovation, with even those in countries where the national emergency number is 112 - such as Sweden - unaware that the number would work anywhere else, the poll said.

[Print this Page](#)[Close Window](#)**Print Source :**<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/185032,eu-emergency-phone-number-rings-no-bells-with-citizens.html>

© 2008 earthtimes.org. All Rights Reserved.

This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.