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# THE SOFIA ECHO

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## BULGARIA AND THE WORLD

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### REDING SLAMS BULGARIA OVER 112 EMERGENCY NUMBER

13:24 Wed 04 Jun 2008 - Elena Koinova

Viviane Reding, European commissioner for information society and media, lashed out at Bulgaria for delays in introducing the 112 emergency number on a nationwide scale, reminding Sofia that the infringement procedure for the delayed implementation of the service was still pending.

Bulgaria was the only European Union member state to have the emergency number operational in its capital alone, Reding said in a statement. The system is based on the GPS standard, which helps emergency teams to easily identify the location of patients.

"The only way for Bulgaria to avoid facing litigation in a European court would be to act as fast as possible," Reding said. "Bulgaria is a destination appealing to a growing number of tourists, so it is integral that the phone line be launched in the shortest timeframe possible."

The European Commission has issued a second warning to Bulgaria over the emergency number.

In the meantime, it emerged that Bulgarians were well aware of what the 112 number presumes. According to a recent Eurostat survey, 54 per cent of Bulgarians know the purposes it served.