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Europe Talk

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Latest News

Eurovision Song Contest 2011

Congratulations to Azerbaijan on winning the latest Eurovision Song Contest.

Next year's competition will take place in Baku.

The preliminary dates are:

First semi-final:

22 May 2012

Second semi-final:

24 May 2012

Final:

26 May 2012



Who you gonna call?

No, the Ghostbusters won't be able to help if you have an accident in the European Union. Well maybe, but not in an emergency that's nothing to with ghosts.

But who else could you contact when you are visiting an EU country or are at home and you need to contact an ambulance, the fire brigade or the police? Do you know?



112 is the European emergency number, reachable from fixed and mobile phones, free of charge, everywhere in the European Union.

Some Member States (Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Malta and Sweden) have introduced 112 as their main emergency number, while in most Member States, 112 operates alongside national emergency numbers.

You can find out more about the 112, and what happens when you phone the emergency helpline, at http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/doc/factsheets/044-112-blurev-en.pdf and http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/112/index_en.htm.

this issue

Latest News **P.1**

Topic **P.2**

Hot Topics & WebNews **P.3**

Q&A **P.4**



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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Schengen Agreement
and travel

IMF

WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

European Health
insurance card

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/t/ravellers>

Passenger Rights

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/transport/passenger-rights/en>

European Youth
Week, 15-21 May
2011

<http://www.youthweek.eu/>

When (not) to phone 112

Call 112 in any emergency requiring an ambulance, the fire brigade or the police. For example, if you witness a serious road accident, notice a building on fire or spot a house being broken into.

Do not call 112 to obtain traffic reports, weather reports, general information and queries. Unnecessary calls may overload the system putting at risk the lives of those who really need emergency assistance.

Unnecessary calls may overload the system putting at risk the lives of those who really need emergency assistance.

Hoax calls may also affect the response to real emergencies. Because of the high number of hoax calls, a number of countries decided to block 112 calls from mobile phones without a SIM card.

Do not hang up if you call 112 by mistake! Tell the operator that everything is fine. Otherwise, emergency assistance may have to be sent out to check there is no problem.

By the way, don't worry if you don't speak the language of the country you are in. Operators are increasingly able to answer 112 calls in more than one language, which is especially important for people calling 112 while abroad.



This Month's Q&A

Q: What is this in the news about closing European borders? Won't I be able to travel from one EU country to the next as easily from now on?

A: Some countries have recently closed their borders, e.g. Denmark, France and Italy, to avoid an influx of non-EU migrants. This might look like the end of the Schengen Agreement but ministers want to preserve passport-free travel and disagree with Denmark's reinstatement of customs checks.



See <http://bit.ly/IECEPi> and <http://bit.ly/kRKcKU> for more details