



Brussels, 11 February 2009

**JOINT TRIPARTITE DECLARATION
ESTABLISHING A "EUROPEAN 112 DAY"**

Recalling that 112 is the telephone number to call emergency services in all the countries of the European Union (EU), from fixed and mobile phones, free of charge,

Recalling that in 1991 it was decided to introduce 112 as the single European emergency call number in order to make access to emergency services easier by telephone, especially for citizens travelling within the EU,

Recalling that 112 is operational in all the EU Member States, and that it is the sole number that can be used in all EU Member States and co-exists in the majority of them with one or several distinct national emergency numbers,

Recalling that there has been increased mobility of citizens within the EU for work, study and leisure over recent years, who may find themselves in an emergency situation abroad, and who would benefit from a reliable emergency service in the single market,

Recalling that citizens can dial 112 for all emergencies and that calls to 112 should be appropriately answered and handled in a manner best suited to the national organisation of emergency systems, and that information about the caller location should be made available to emergency services,

Recalling the importance for the EU to reinforce its capacity to address all phases of disaster (preparedness, prevention, response and recovery), where early warning systems can benefit from the information made available by citizens calling 112,

Mindful of the importance of emergency services that assist citizens in cases of distress and of the need to further encourage Member State's on-going efforts by highlighting the benefits that can be derived from reinforcing networking and exchanging experiences on different technical, economic, legal and organisational issues at EU level,

Recalling the social importance of citizens identifying 112 as one of the significant results that the EU has delivered,

Recalling that only 24% of EU citizens currently identify 112 as the number to be called in case of emergency anywhere in the EU and that just 30% of EU citizens are of the view that they are adequately informed about the existence of 112,

Underlining the necessity to increase visibility and awareness of the single European emergency number 112, the benefits for citizens of which should be celebrated each year,

The European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission,

Approve the establishment of a "European 112 Day" to be celebrated on 11 February each year, in particular by the organisation of awareness raising, experience sharing and networking activities.