

112 – for quick assistance in EU



Number 112 is a telephone number for a quick assistance anywhere in region of the European Union, and it is available from a land-phone network as well as from the mobile one. Since the European citizens often travel through the countries of the EU, imposed has been a need of introduction of service of the unified telephone number for assistance, which would be valid in all countries of the EU. Calling this number goes to the operator, who will, depending on a national protection system, and a type of problem, directly solve the request or redirect it to the local urgent assistance, police or firemen. Operators of the 112 service, because of the system which operates in

region of the whole Union, must speak several foreign languages.

Even though this system exists for several years already and it still functions well, it has been officially promoted just on June 3rd, this year, as a generally valid service on the EU region. Besides that, the European Commission thinks that the Union countries must contribute additional efforts in informing the citizens on significance of the phone number for quick assistance. The Commission has also warned that some Member States must invest some money in telecommunication infrastructure in order for the 112 system to be improved. With additional development, the 112 service could soon be able to automatically locate the caller anywhere in the EU, which now is not the case in all Member States. That improvement will be a pre-condition for the introduction of the technologically very demanding e-Call system, which is being inserted into vehicles. In the case of a traffic accident, that system automatically contacts the operator of the 112 service and delivers the data on location of accident and kind of the accident. According to the proposal of the Commission, the e-Call system would be serially inserted into the new vehicles from 2010.

(Source: European Commission, June 2008)

Each moment 5.6 of custom declarations go through the hands of custom officers

Many citizens of the European Union believe, and then often say "that customs no longer exist", but the real truth is that 27 national custom administrations meet each year with 175 million custom declarations or 5.6 custom declarations each moment.

Besides the traditional role, custom officers act more and more as "the watchdogs" of health and security of people. They protect the Union from false commodity, by including the dangerous medicaments, food and toys,



but from an illegal import of the animals protected by the international regulations as well.

The custom union, as it has been graded by its General administration for media and informing, remains as an elementary foundation of the European Union.

Fast driving on German roads



of driving on German roads. The news on this has come to the circles of environmentalists. Germany, as it has been stated by the “Deutsche Umwelthilfe” and “Verkehrsclub Deutschland” should accept the restrictions because of the safety on roads and climate protection. The European Union, however, claims that it has been seeking for a way to cut the number of car accidents on half by 2010, but that it does not have any plans for speed restrictions. Reason is simple – that is the accountability of Member States.

The European Union has denied that it plans to impose this year the restriction

(Source: General directorate for communications)

The Union did not forbid the words "darling" and "love"

The news that the pub owners will have to protect their customers from words "love" and "darling" addressed by staff, has initiated waves of bad reactions in British media at the beginning of 2008. “Sun” has blamed the EU by claiming that Harriet Harman, Minister for sex equality has passed the new law through without parliamentary procedure. Paper

has also published that this is "the last garbage that comes out of the EU". “Nobody has voted for that law. It was just a dream of non-elected bureaucrats in Brussels, and it is now being imposed in Britain without parliamentary discussion”, has been published by “Daily Mail”. The European Commission has replied by the same measure: "You

are right, love. Rules of the EU on equality will not enter the pubs – it is up to the national authorities, my darling, to decide what can you say and what can you not. So, don't worry, sweetie. We all know, darling, there is too much nonsense out of which has come that one too." Goal of the rules on equality is to protect the employees from any kind of discrimination or sexual abuse. However, it is up to the Member State to define specific rules for employees at different places. The Commission does not solve individual legal cases. National legislation deliberates if there is

discrimination or not, the Union has responded.



(Source: General media and intelligence service)

Passengers can bring more wine in the EU



The passengers, who enter the EU, can bring more commodities without paying customs in personal luggage, has been announced by the European Commission. New rules on non-custom import in personal luggage have inured. Passengers, who enter the EU by air or sea, will be able to import the commodity worth 430 Euros instead of the previous 175 Euros, and for those who enter the EU by road or internal waterway, the limit is 300 Euros. But,

for cigarettes and alcohol, their value will not be taken into consideration, but their quantity. So, the passengers traveling by airways or sea-ways will instead of two be able to import four liters of wine, 16 liters of beer (there were no restrictions before), one liter of sore alcohol drink – quantity remains the same – and commodity in a value of 430 Euros (toys, perfumes, electronic devices, etc.) When speaking of cigarettes, the limit of 200 cigarettes remains the same, but the Member States are allowed to reduce that limit down to 40 cigarettes. "Inuring of new rules on non-custom import is good news for Europeans. Many previous rules, out of which some inure since 1969, no longer suit today's needs. Value of commodity, which can be imported, is almost doubly increased, and the quantity of imported drinks has also been increased", has been said by representative for taxes, Laszlo Kovacs.

(Source: Hena, December 2008)

70 million of the EU citizens smoke marihuana



The European Commission has adopted the four-year Action plan for combat against misuse of drugs, which proposes more measures of strengthening the European cooperation, whose goal is to stop drug consuming and crime connected with trading such things. Proposed actions in the frame of plan for 2009-2012 include measures of improving of quality and availability of program of rehabilitation for drug consumers, and establishing of police and custom forces, which would successfully fight against organized groups which deal with drug trading. "From even 2 million of drug consumers in the EU, it is finally a time to raise the awareness of sensitive groups, especially the youth, on risk of taking drugs", has been said by representative for jurisdiction, freedom and security, Jacques Barrot. Last researches show that there has been reduced usage of heroin, cannabis and synthetic drugs, while using of cocaine is in an increase in Member States. Total number of

people in the EU, who take drugs – or they have done it at some point of their lives, has been estimated on 70 million for cannabis, at least 12 million for cocaine, 9.5 million for ecstasy and 11 million for amphetamine, while it has been known that at least a half of million of people take the substitution therapy for heroin. Each year, around 7.500 persons die due to overdose in the EU. Measures also include creating of the European alliance against drugs, whose goal is to reduce the damage caused to society by drugs. The Commission has also invited the government authorities, public services and voluntary organizations to act through that alliance in partnership. At the same time, European scientists prove that marihuana contains some valuable substances, which can function as antibiotics. Certain junctures have shown some exceptional results in laboratory testing, which have been done by Italian scientists. It has been known for years that cannabis has anti-bacterial substances, but the study done by Giovanni Appendino and his team has shown a real power of marihuana. Five main ingredients of cannabis have been tested on different junctures of bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is resistant to methicillin. All ingredients have been shown as very efficient in destroying bacteria, especially because of a totally different way of destroying of bacteria from the usual antibiotic function.

(Source: Cyberbulevar.com, September 2008)