



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2011/2682(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on misleading business directories		
Subject 4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling 4.60.06 Consumers' economic and legal interests		

Key players		
European Parliament		
European Commission	Commission DG Justice and Consumers	Commissioner REDING Viviane

Key events			
09/06/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/06/2011	Debate in Parliament		Summary
09/06/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0269/2011	Summary
09/06/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2682(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 136-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B7-0315/2011	12/05/2011	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0342/2011	26/05/2011	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0269/2011	09/06/2011	EP	Summary

Resolution on misleading business directories

The House held a debate on Oral Question [O-000087/2011](#) to the Commission on misleading business directories.

Resolution on misleading business directories

Following the debate which was held in plenary on 9 June 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Petitions on misleading business directories (Petitions 0045/2006, 1476/2006, 0079/2003, 0819/2003, 1010/2005, 0052/2007, 0306/2007, 0444/2007, 0562/2007 and others).

It regrets that Directive 2006/114/EC on misleading and comparative advertising, which applies to business-to-business transactions, appears to be either insufficient in providing an effective remedy or inadequately enforced by Member States.

Members note that Parliament has received more than 400 petitions concerning widespread misleading business practices by business directory companies affecting thousands of mostly small businesses in the EU, with a significant financial impact. The misleading business practices in question typically consist in luring businesses, as well as professionals and non-profit entities, into being listed in a business directory free of charge, with signatories later discovering that they have signed up to a contract with a fee. These business directory companies are often established in a different Member State from that of their victims, making it difficult for the latter to seek protection and/or redress from national authorities.

Parliament calls on the Commission to:

- proactively verify Member States' transposition, implementation and national enforcement of Directive 2006/114/EC and take corrective action where needed;
- speed up its activities with regard to revising and improving the Directive and other relevant legislation so as to put an end to the misleading practices of business directory companies as soon as possible, notably by specifically black-listing misleading practices by business directories.

Members recall that, although the Commission has no power to enforce the Directive directly against individuals or companies, it does have a duty to ensure that the Directive is adequately implemented by Member States.