



Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2011/2894(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on access by blind people to books and other printed products		
Subject		
4.10.06 People with disabilities		
4.45.08 Cultural and artistic activities, books and reading, arts		

Key players		
European Parliament	Commission DG	Commissioner
European Commission	Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	REDING Viviane

Key events			
15/02/2012	Debate in Parliament		
16/02/2012	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/02/2012	Decision by Parliament	T7-0059/2012	Summary
16/02/2012	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2011/2894(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		B7-0030/2012	10/02/2012	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0062/2012	10/02/2012	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0059/2012	16/02/2012	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2012)322	05/06/2012	EC	

Resolution on access by blind people to books and other printed products

The European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by the Committee on Petition on Petition 0924/2011 by Dan Pescod (British), on behalf of the European Blind Union (EBU)/Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), on access by blind people to books and other printed products.

Noting that the Copyright Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) is considering an international treaty to improve access to books for blind and other visually impaired people, Parliament calls on the Council and Commission to support a binding WIPO treaty with regard to copyright on books and printed products for blind and visually impaired people. Parliament also notes that in its [resolution](#)

[of 12 May 2011](#) on Unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries, it had called on the EU to back a binding WIPO treaty.

Blind and visually impaired people in the European Union have severely restricted access to books and other printed products because 95% of all published works are never converted to accessible formats such as Braille, large print or audio. Members recall that globally there is at present no international legal standard for a targeted exception to copyright rules for cross-border distribution of formats adapted for print-disabled persons, and EU representatives have consistently opposed a legally binding text, favouring non-binding recommendations.