

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

ECC Decision
of 6 July 2007
on Reserving the National Numbering Range
Beginning with '116' for Harmonised
Numbers for Harmonised Services of
Social Value

(ECC/DEC/(07)03)



EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1 INTRODUCTION

In many European countries, certain services of a social nature are available either via normal telephone numbers or via special short number. Examples are services which answer a specific social need, in particular which contribute to the well-being or safety of citizens or particular groups of citizens, or help citizens in difficulty, and which are potentially of value to visitors from other countries. Today, numbers for the same service are often different in different countries.

The ECC Recommendation (04)07 “*Designation of ‘116’ Number Range for Possible Future Europe-Wide Harmonised Short Numbers*” reserves number range starting with digits ‘116’ for harmonised European services. A single number will provide a European identity for a service; it will facilitate awareness-raising campaigns and may increase the efficiency/effectiveness of the provision of the service at European level.

2 BACKGROUND

The following conditions apply to services using 116 numbers:

- Numbers in use will be 6 digits in length. Initially, the ranges 1160xy and 1161xy will be opened. The number 116112 will not be assigned nor used.
- The service is targeted at individuals and should be a clear benefit to them. The service is not designed as a service for businesses, but business users or employees would not be precluded from calling the service.
- The service is potentially of value to visitors from other countries.
- The service answers a specific social need; in particular it (a) contributes to the well-being or safety of citizens or of a particular group of citizens or (b) helps citizens in difficulty.
- The service provides information and/or assistance and/or a reporting tool to citizens.
- The service is open to all citizens; no prior registration to the service is required. “Members only” services are excluded.
- The service is not time-limited. Services of a temporary nature, e.g. services that might be associated with a single event of some sort, are excluded.
- The service is not commercial in nature, i.e. there can be no payment, or payment commitment as a pre-requisite to use the service.
- The following activities are excluded during a call: advertisement, entertainment, marketing and selling, using the call for the future selling of commercial services. Advertising or marketing of the service in general is not precluded, but this should not take the form of advertising during the call e.g. by way of voice announcements.

3 REQUIREMENT FOR AN ECC DECISION

In order to implement the concept of Harmonised European Short Codes an ECC Decision with individual reserved numbers for European services of social value listed in the Annex of the Decision is necessary. The Annex will be updated independently from the body text of the Decision by Working Group Numbering, Naming and Addressing (WG NNA).

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of 6 July 2007**

**on Reserving the National Numbering Range Beginning with '116' for
Harmonised Numbers for Harmonised Services of Social Value**

(ECC/DEC/(07)03)

Comparable provisions to those given in this ECC Decision are given in Commission Decision of 15 February 2007 (C(2007)249) (OJ L 49, 17.2.2007, p. 30). EU/EEA-EFTA Member States are obliged to implement the EC Decision. (EEA-EFTA refers to those Member States of EFTA who participate in the EEA Agreement)

“The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations,

considering

- a) that it is desirable for citizens, including travellers and disabled users, to be able to reach certain services that have a social value by using the same recognisable numbers in all participating countries. At present there is a patchwork of numbering and dialling schemes in the CEPT countries and no common numbering scheme is in operation to reserve the same telephone numbers for such services in the CEPT area. CEPT action is therefore required for that purpose;
- b) that the harmonisation of numbering resources is necessary to allow these services provided in different CEPT countries to be accessed by end-users using the same number. The combination “same number – same service” will ensure that a specific service in which ever CEPT country it is provided is always associated with a specific number within the CEPT area. This will provide the service with a pan-European identity to the benefit of the European citizen who will know that the same number dialed will give access to the same type of service in different CEPT countries; This measure will encourage pan-European services to develop;
- c) that in order to reflect the social function of the services in question, the harmonised numbers should be freephone numbers, without this meaning that operators would be obliged to carry calls to 116 numbers at their own expense. The freephone nature of the numbers is therefore an essential component of the harmonisation being carried out;
- d) that it is necessary to attach conditions closely related to controlling the nature of the service provided to ensure that the harmonised numbers are used for the provision of the particular type of service covered by the Decision;
- e) that it may be necessary that specific conditions are attached to the right of use for a specific harmonised number, for example, that the associated service should be provided 24 hours a day and 7 days a week;
- f) that national regulatory authorities are responsible for the management of national numbering plans and for controlling the assignment of national numbering resources to specific undertakings;
- g) that the list of specific numbers in the numbering range beginning with ‘116’ should be regularly updated. Participating countries should make known the existence of such numbers in a manner that is accessible to all interested parties, for example, via their websites;
- h) The ECC will consider revision or further adaptation of the present Decision in the light of experience gained, in particular whether a specific service for which a number has been reserved has developed on a pan-European basis.

DECIDES

1. that the numbering range beginning with '116' shall be reserved in national numbering plans for harmonised numbers for harmonised services of social value. The specific numbers within this numbering range and the services for which each number is reserved are listed in the Annex;
2. that 'harmonised service of social value' is a service meeting a common description to be accessed by individuals via a freephone number, which is potentially of value to visitors from other countries and which answers a specific social need, in particular which contributes to the well-being or safety of citizens, or particular groups of citizens, or helps citizens in difficulty;
3. that participating countries shall ensure that
 - a. numbers listed in the Annex are used only for the services for which they have been reserved;
 - b. numbers within the '116' numbering range that are not listed in the Annex are not used;
 - c. the number 116112 is neither assigned nor used for any service;
4. that participating countries shall attach the following conditions to the right of use of harmonised numbers for the provision of harmonised services of social value
 - a. the service provides information, or assistance, or a reporting tool to citizens, or any combination thereof;
 - b. the service is open to all citizens without any requirement of prior registration;
 - c. the service is not time-limited;
 - d. there is no payment, or payment commitment as a prerequisite to use the service;
 - e. the following activities are excluded during a call: advertisement, entertainment, marketing and selling, using the call for the future selling of commercial services;

In addition, participating countries shall attach specific conditions to the right of use of harmonised numbers as set out in the Annex;

5. that regarding the assignment of harmonised numbers
 - a. participating countries shall take all necessary measures to ensure that as from 31 December 2007 the competent National Regulatory Authority can assign the numbers referred to in the Annex;
 - b. the listing of a specific number and the associated harmonised service of social value does not carry an obligation for CEPT countries to ensure that the service in question is provided within their territory;
 - c. once a number has been listed in the Annex, participating countries shall make known at national level that the specific number is available for the provision of the associated harmonised service of social value, and that applications for the rights of use for this specific number may be submitted;
 - d. participating countries shall ensure that a register of all harmonised numbers, with their associated harmonised services of social value, available in their territory is maintained. The register shall be easily accessible to the public;
6. that CEPT administrations shall report periodically to the ECC on the actual use of numbers listed in the Annex for the provision of the related services within their territory;
7. that this Decision enters into force on 6 July 2007;
8. that the preferred date for implementation of this Decision shall be 31 December 2007;
9. that CEPT administrations shall communicate the national measures implementing this Decision to the ECC Chairman and the Office when the Decision is nationally implemented."

Note:

Please check the European Radiocommunications Office web site (www.ero.dk) for the up to date position on the implementation of this and other ECC Decisions.

ANNEX

List of reserved numbers to harmonised services of social value

Number	Service for which this number is reserved	Specific conditions attached to the right of use for this number
116000	Hotline for missing children	