

Thursday 10 April 2008

Subtitling of all public service television programmes in the EU

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Declaration of the European Parliament on the subtitling of all public service television programmes in the EU

(2009/C 247 E/09)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 3, 13, 149 and 151 of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas the European Union should ensure that citizens have equal access to information, education and culture,
 - B. whereas partial or complete loss of hearing is a condition that affects more than 83 million people in Europe; whereas, given the ageing of the European population, this problem will continue to grow,
 - C. whereas access to television in Europe is universal; whereas public service television has a public service mission consisting, among other things, in informing and educating viewers,
 - D. whereas today's technology enables television programmes (including live programmes) to be subtitled as they go out, one example of this being programmes broadcast by the BBC, which has undertaken to subtitle all of its programmes from April 2008,
1. Considers the subtitling of all public service television programmes in the European Union to be essential with a view to ensuring that all viewers, including deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, have full access to them; takes the view that this would also help with foreign-language learning;
 2. Calls on the Commission to put forward a legislative proposal requiring public service television broadcasters in the European Union to subtitle all of their programmes;
 3. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

List of signatories

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