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

2008/2090(DCE) - 10/04/2008 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a Declaration on the subtitling of all public service television programmes in the EU.

Partial or complete loss of hearing is a condition that affects more than 83 million people in Europe, and that, given the ageing of the European population, this problem will continue to grow. Parliament stated that access to television in Europe is universal, and that public service television has a public service mission consisting, among other things, in informing and educating viewers. Recalling that today's technology enables television programmes (including live programmes) to be subtitled as they go out, Parliament 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. This would also help with foreign-language learning.

The Commission is asked to put forward a legislative proposal requiring public service television broadcasters in the EU to subtitle all of their programmes.