

## Basic information

2011/2682(RSP)

RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects

Resolution on misleading business directories

### Subject

4.60.02 Consumer information, advertising, labelling

4.60.06 Consumers' economic and legal interests

Procedure completed

## Key players

European Commission

Commission DG

Commissioner

Justice and Consumers

REDING Viviane

## Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/06/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0269/2011	Summary
09/06/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
09/06/2011	Debate in Parliament		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 142-p5

Stage reached in procedure

Procedure completed

## Documentation gateway

### European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Oral question/interpellation by Parliament		B7-0315/2011	12/05/2011	
Motion for a resolution		B7-0342/2011	26/05/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T7-0269/2011	09/06/2011	Summary

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# Resolution on misleading business directories

2011/2682(RSP) - 09/06/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

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.