

EU Legislation and Public Safety

What EU Legislation is relevant to various topics in public safety? This one-page factsheet will guide you to the relevant legislation.

European Electronic Communications Code

This is the main legislation on emergency communications in the EU.

The legislation introduces the concept of ‘**emergency communications**’, replacing ‘emergency calls’ in order to encompass the new information and communication technologies. Other provisions in the Code include the use of handset-derived information in the location information provided to the PSAP, the establishment of a telephone-based public warning system in order to alert the population of an ongoing crisis or an upcoming threat, and some improvements of the means by which people with disabilities can contact the emergency services.

Delegated Regulation (2023/444)

The Delegated Regulation expands on the EECC with:

- New rules detailing how “competent regulatory authorities” should determine criteria on how emergency communications should be located,
- Specifying “functional equivalence requirements” that need to be met for means of access to emergency services for people with disabilities,
- introducing the new term 'contextual information' to describe additional relevant data that should be transmitted to PSAPs,
- requiring Member States to produce within nine months a roadmap detailing the country’s plan for PSAPs to be able to “receive, answer and process emergency communications through packet-switched technology”.

European Accessibility Act

The European Accessibility Act (EAA) includes some requirements on emergency access that complete the EECC and clarify the scope of ‘emergency communications’.

The EAA states that at a minimum, real-time text (RTT) should be implemented and that PSAPs should respond with the same communication method as that received.



EUROPEAN EMERGENCY NUMBER ASSOCIATION

Keywords

- **Directive:** this kind of legislation is legally binding and requires EU Member States (MS) to transpose it into national law. A notice period is given for this.
- **Regulation:** legally binding, but not required within MS national law. It must be followed immediately.
- **Delegated/implementing acts:** legislation that clarifies/improves on existing directives/regulations.

The European Commission is responsible for making sure that EU legislation is correctly implemented and enforced. If a Member State fails to comply with European laws, the Commission can refer the case to the Court of Justice of the European Union, which might impose financial sanctions to the countries.

And others....

- **ePrivacy Regulation:** Exemption for emergency services to process caller location and identification without their consent.
- **Roaming Regulation:** Promotion of 112 to people travelling within the EU.
- **Delegated Regulation (2019/320):** AML must be integrated into all smartphones sold in the EU single market.

Timeline: deadlines for implementation

