



## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Persons with disabilities in Europe often have difficulties accessing many basic products and services on an equal basis with other people. The Accessibility Act is needed to improve this situation.

While many EU Member States already have some form of accessibility legislation, there is no EU law on accessibility. **The European Accessibility Act should provide a minimum level of accessibility when it comes to products and services so that they can be circulated in all EU Member States.**

Adopting the Accessibility Act will be a big step for the EU to promote the inclusion of its 80 million persons with disabilities, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that the EU and all Member States, except Ireland, have ratified.



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# ACCESSIBILITY? **ACT!**



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## WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT?

The **European Accessibility Act** is a proposal for a law that would make many products and services in the European Union (EU) more accessible for persons with disabilities. EDF is campaigning for the proposal to be adopted so that the Accessibility Act will become a binding law as soon as possible.

The **proposed Accessibility Act** takes the form of a **Directive**, which is legally binding, meaning that the **EU Member States have an obligation to apply what the Act mentions**. The proposal foresees that only certain products and services need to be accessible.

### THESE ARE MAINLY:

- Smartphones, tablets and computers
- Ticketing machines and check-in machines
- Televisions and TV programmes
- Banking and ATMs
- E-books
- Online shopping



**EDF thinks that the scope of the proposed Accessibility Act should be widened** to include more areas which are important for the everyday lives of persons with disabilities, such as the buildings around the accessible goods and services. How will people with disabilities reach an accessible ATM if the building of the bank is not accessible to them?



### WE WANT A STRONG AMBITIOUS EUROPEAN ACCESSIBILITY ACT

## WHAT IS EDF'S ROLE?

Together with its members all around Europe, EDF:

- **raises awareness** on the importance of accessibility as a condition for the inclusion and active participation of persons with disabilities in society,
- **continues campaigning** for Freedom of Movement,
- **calls for an ambitious Accessibility Act** which will bring a real difference in the lives of 80 million persons with disabilities in Europe.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

### EU & MEMBER STATES



European Commission proposal

Raising awareness on accessibility and campaigning for the publication of the Act

**EDF** initial response

Discussion at European Parliament and EU Council

**EDF** suggests improvements of the text

*if there is agreement*

Adoption of the Act

### 3 TOP PRIORITIES:

- Widening the scope of the Act to include more products and services
- Not allowing easy exceptions
- Clear timeframe for quick implementation in all EU Member States

Put into practice in EU Member States

**EDF** and its members support the implementation of the Act

**MORE ACCESSIBLE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EUROPE**