



# **The European Accessibility Act (EAA)**

## **Proposal for a Directive**

**Inmaculada Placencia Porrero  
Senior Expert  
Disability and Inclusion**

**European Commission  
DG EMPL  
[Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Inmaculada.placencia-porrero@ec.europa.eu)**

# Why an European Accessibility Act?

## Economic reasons

- Free circulation of accessible products & services ⇒ more accessible and cheaper products/services for 80M of EU citizens
- Divergence of national legislations ⇒ fragmentation of the EU Market ⇒ counterproductive for enterprises
- Opening markets for being ready for global competitiveness

# Why an European Accessibility Act?

## Legal obligations

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) entered into force for the EU in 2011
- Its obligations increase the risk of divergent accessibility legislations in MS
- The EAA helps to implement the obligations of article 9 on Accessibility

## What is covered under the EAA?

- Accessibility requirements for carefully selected products and services
- Same accessibility requirements to be used in other EU law (for example Public Procurement)



# Products & services in the scope of the EAA

- Computers and operating systems
- ATMs, ticketing and check-in machines
- Telephones and smartphones
- TV equipment related to digital television services
- Telephony services and related equipment
- Audio-visual media services (AVMS) and related equipment
- Air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport services
- Banking services
- E-books
- E-commerce

# How does the EAA interact with other EU law?

- **Same accessibility requirements as in existing EU law:**
  - Public procurement
  - Structural and investments funds
  - Tenders for public passenger transport services
  - Transport infrastructure

# What does the European Accessibility Act propose?

- **Functional accessibility requirements**
- **Free movement of products and services** meeting the accessibility requirements
- **Self-declaration of conformity** (lightest option)
- **Market surveillance**
- **Defines accessibility** under already existing obligations in other EU law

## What the EAA does NOT do?

- **does not prescribe** to the level of technical details how to render a product or service accessible.
- **does not set obligations** for **all** manufacturers and service providers
- **does not impose burdensome requirements**
- **does not amend** existing EU sectorial legislation on accessibility



# What is the timeline for implementation?

- Transposition period -> Two years after entry into force
- Enter into application -> Six years after entry into force
- Implementation report -> Five years after application