



## **The Accessibility Act – EDF position**

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## EDF – Introduction

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- EU umbrella organisation representing persons with disabilities
- Interest representation: secretariat in Brussels
- More than 100 members (National disability organisations, European NGOs)
- Main topics: Human rights, social policies, accessibility (transport, built environment, ICTs)
- “Nothing about us without us”



## European Accessibility Act: background

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Art. 9 UNCRPD:

“States parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, **on an equal basis with others**, to (...) transportation, both in urban and in rural areas”

The Accessibility Act does not create new requirements – the Member States are already obliged to implement the UNCRPD which goes much further.

## European Accessibility Act: content

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- Proposal for a **Directive** (Second “strongest” type of EU law, to be transposed into national law by Member States)
- First EU law on accessibility of **mainstream products and services**
- Based on **Internal Market** law, not non-discrimination
- Complementing existing legislation (**horizontal** approach)
- Ensuring a harmonized approach across the EU when implementing the CRPD to avoid contradictions in national law
- Minimum requirements; functional approach (not too technical and descriptive)



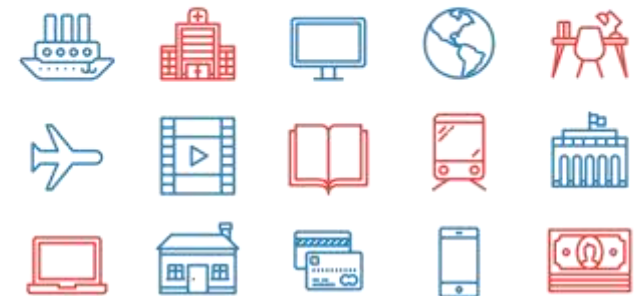
## Accessibility Act: content

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Limited list of products and services covered in proposal:

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

This has been slightly widened in the position of the European Parliament.



# European Accessibility Act: state of play

- December 2015: Commission published proposal  
→ Proposal sent both to Council and European Parliament
- February 2016: EDF's initial response  
→ Simultaneously, Council and European Parliament discuss & develop their own positions
- September 2017: Position of European Parliament adopted  
→ Negotiations between decision makers start as soon as the Council also has a position („trialogues“)



# How will the Accessibility Act affect my life?

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EU Directive is adopted



Estonia has to make a law which incorporates the provisions of the EU Directive



After a transition period, accessibility requirements will apply to companies



You can buy accessible products and services in your hometown



If there are problems you can lodge a complaint



## Accessibility Act: EDF position

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EDF position on the **Commission** proposal:

- One step towards more accessibility but not a “miracle solution”;
- minimum requirements
- The proposal does not go far enough: Built environment, transport, household appliances, etc. should be included!
- There are too many exemptions for businesses (Art. 12)
- Participation of Disabled Persons’ Organisations is not sufficiently guaranteed(DPOs)





## Accessibility Act: EDF position

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**European Parliament** position contains many improvements but also deteriorations

Improvements:

- Binding clause on accessibility of buildings
- All transport modes covered, including vehicles and stations
- Better involvement of persons with disabilities and easier complaints

Deteriorations:

- Microenterprises completely excluded
- Provisions on Audio-Visual Media Services (AVMS) severely weakened

→ It is now up to the Council to define its position



## Next steps

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- Position of the Council expected by end of 2017
- EDF will continue to campaign for a strong and ambitious law that will make a real difference in peoples' lives
- Now is the time to makes changes and invest in the future of all EU citizens!



Aim: Swift adoption of an  
ambitious and meaningful  
Accessibility Act



# Thank you!

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