



Press Release:

Public web-sites and apps to be accessible 4 all!

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ANEC welcomes the European Parliament's adoption of a Directive on the Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' websites and apps to ensure access to on-line public services to all consumers, regardless of age or ability. The Parliament, in agreement with the Council, made significant improvements to the original Commission proposal in terms of the web-sites covered and enforcement provisions, as well as the inclusion of access from a handheld mobile device and mobile apps, in line with ANEC's position¹.

"Today, fewer than one-third of public websites in Europe are accessible", remarked ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell. "80 million people with disabilities, 150 million people aged over 50, are among the many consumers who will benefit from this legislation. We have already worked on standards to implement the directive², but will contribute to their update to include apps. We now call on Member States to ensure timely implementation of the directive so Europe delivers for its citizens."

Websites need to be designed to be accessible, and in compliance with accessibility standards, if people with disabilities and older people are to be able to access on-line services. For many years now, ANEC and its partners have been campaigning for mandatory web-accessibility legislation³.

"Today's vote is a landmark for the consumer and disability movements", concluded Mr Russell.

ENDS

¹ <https://goo.gl/zwCiT5>

² <https://goo.gl/CwGGvE>

³ <http://goo.gl/aEGM4A>

About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and conformity assessment, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 33 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.



Raising standards for consumers

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