



Press Release:

MEPs strengthen proposal for web-accessibility directive

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Contact Person: Chiara Giovannini (+32 (0)2 743 24 70)

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ANEC welcomes yesterday's vote of the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market & Consumer Protection (IMCO) in favour of new legislation on the accessibility of websites of public sector bodies.

"At last, it has been recognised that the best way to deliver web-accessibility is through a binding horizontal legislative act", said ANEC Secretary General, Stephen Russell. "Moreover, we believe developing e-accessibility in general, and web accessibility in particular, is a win-win situation for all stakeholders, as it supports social & economic inclusion of disabled and older consumers, while also supporting the competitiveness and Internal Market objectives of the EU".

In line with ANEC's proposals, the legislative report brings significant improvements to the Commission text. We welcome the extension of scope to other basic services delivered online, and clarification that the act addresses both websites designed for access from a handheld mobile device and mobile applications.

We also welcome that our recommendations on use of web-accessibility standards to ensure harmonisation of the Internal Market have been taken into account. But, as Mr Russell, noted, "we now call on Member States to overcome their contrary views on the use of European and International standards as it is essential that the adoption of this legal act happens before the Parliamentary elections in May 2014".

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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.



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**European association for the coordination
of consumer representation in standardisation aisbl**

Avenue de Tervuren 32, box 27, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 743 24 70 / Fax: +32 2 706 54 30
E-mail: anec@anec.eu

EC Register of Interest Representatives:
Identification number 507800799-30

www.anec.eu

<http://companies.to/anec/>



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