

ANEC position on CEN/CENELEC BTs consultation on adoption of ISO/IEC Guide 71-*Guide for addressing accessibility in Standards* as new edition of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6

ANEC agrees with the adoption of ISO/IEC Guide 71- *Guide for addressing accessibility in Standards* as a European Guide in order to ensure consistency of approaches at the European and international levels.

The new Guide 71 is the result of a compromise but it is a compromise that we can accept. The compromised is about the use of both the social and medical model of disability and the usability of the Guide. Although the social model is widely accepted, the work on this Guide has demonstrated the limits of its acceptability. By including both models there is the theoretical possibility of producing a Guide that can be used by the widest number of people. The emphasis of the Guide has changed from specific categories of people (older persons and people with disabilities) to accessibility (and how this concept can be applied to any target group). This change does not lessen the importance of the original targets, but enables standardisers to consult with, and think about, the user accessibility needs of any and all groups they might want or need to consider.

According to section 11.5.5 of the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, a Guide is not amended, but replaced by a new edition under the same number with a new date. However we think that consideration should be given on how the present version of CEN/CENELEC Guide 6 could be useful in the framework of M/473 on Design for All.

END.