



The voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe

European Blind Union

Press release

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A New Chapter Begins EU finally adopts European Accessibility Act

After over three years of legislative work, the European Accessibility Act (EAA) passed its last hurdle. Today, the Council of the European Union approved the agreement of last November on this landmark EU legislation on accessibility of goods and services. The European Parliament had already done so on 13 March. What is in fact a directive now needs to be put into national law and European standards.

“A new chapter on the EAA begins today: the implementation”, states Wolfgang Angermann, President of the European Blind Union (EBU). “It is crucial that all EU Member States take this phase very seriously, to ensure that the EAA delivers on its promise of more accessible products and services for 30 million blind and partially sighted Europeans.”

EU countries have three years to turn most of the provisions of the EAA into national law. In parallel, the European Commission will specify the accessibility requirements and develop standards to support the implementation. EBU will accompany this critical work to advance the interests of blind and partially sighted consumers.

The EAA tasks EU countries to ensure that a wide palette of goods and services on the European market are accessible. This includes computers and smartphones, ticket and check-in machines, routers and TV sets, ATMs and banking services, emergency communications, e-commerce and TV applications as well as e-readers and e-books. EBU has lobbied for a strong and comprehensive EAA since 2015.

Ends

About EBU

EBU is a non-governmental, non-profit making European organisation founded in 1984. It is one of the six regional bodies of the World Blind Union. It protects and promotes the interests of blind and partially sighted people in Europe. It currently operates within a network of national organisations of the visually impaired in 41 European countries.

6 rue Gager Gabillot - 75015 Paris (France)

Tel: +33 1 47 05 04 84 - Fax: +33 1 47 05 38 21

Contact: ebucampaigning@euroblind.org

www.euroblind.org

Twitter: [@euroblind](https://twitter.com/euroblind)