



The European Accessibility Act

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ACCESSIBILITY

EC European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

*"The Commission proposes to **use legislative and other instruments as standardisation**, to optimise the **accessibility** of the built environment, transport and ICT [...]. Based on smarter regulations principles, **it will explore the merits of adopting regulatory measures** to ensure accessibility of products and services, including measures to step up the use of **public procurement**[...]. Following further consultations with Member States and stakeholders, the Commission will consider whether to **propose a European Accessibility Act.**"*

What is covered under the EAA?

- Accessibility requirements for carefully selected products and services
- Same accessibility requirements to be used in other EU law (for example Public Procurement)

Products in the scope of the EAA

(a) consumer general purpose computer hardware systems and operating systems for those hardware systems;

(b) Self Service terminals:

- **(ia) payment terminals;**
- **(iia) the following self-service terminals dedicated to the provision of services covered by this Directive;**
 - (iia-i) Automated Teller Machines;
 - (iia-ii) ticketing machines
 - (iia-iii) check-in machines
 - (iia-iv) interactive self-service terminals providing information, excluding machines installed as integrated parts of vehicles, aircrafts, ships or rolling stock;

“(c) consumer terminal equipment with interactive computing capability, used for electronic communication services;”

(d) consumer terminal equipment with interactive computing capability, used for accessing audio-visual media services;

(e) e-readers;

Services in the scope of the EAA

(a) electronic communications services with the exception of transmission services used for the provision of machine-to-machine services”.

(b) services providing access to audiovisual media services;

(c) Certain elements of air, bus, rail and waterborne passenger transport services(websites, mobile device based services, electronic tickets and ticketing, transport service information(also real time), interactive self-service terminals...). For urban, suburban and regional transport services only interactive self-service terminals.

(d) consumer banking services;

(e) e-books and dedicated software

(f) e-commerce services;

Other elements related to the scope

- Answering emergency communications to 112**
- Built environment (optional)**
- Public Procurement for Products and services in the EAA**
- EU Acts containing accessibility obligations (presumption compliance)**

Other issues:

Related to the scope

- **Exemption micro enterprises for services**
- **Mitigating measures for micro enterprises for product:**
 - Reduction of administrative burden
 - guidelines

Safeguards:

- **Disproportioned burden criteria**
- **Fundamental alteration**

Key provisions for products (I)

- **Accessibility obligations Free movement of products and services** meeting the accessibility requirements
- **Obligations for manufacturers, authorized representatives, importers, distributors**(
Decision 768/2008)
- **CE marking** (Regulation 765/ 2008)
- **Self-declaration of conformity** (lightest option)
- **Market surveillance (compliance, safeguards)**₈

Key provisions for services (II)

- **Accessibility obligations**
- **Free movement of products and services** meeting the accessibility requirements
- Obligations for **service providers**
- **Authority responsible for compliance of services (check, safeguards)**



Accessibility related standardization work at EU level

Mandate 376: *Accessibility requirements for public procurement of products and services in the **ICT** domain*

EN 301 549

Mandate 420: *Accessibility requirements for public procurement in the **Built Environment** (including **transport infrastructures**)*

Mandate 473 to:

- include Accessibility following Design For All in relevant standardization activities
- Develop standards addressing accessibility following Design for all in the manufacturing and service delivery processes.

EN 17161

Cooperation with the US

Other Key elements

- Standards and technical specification**
- Enforcement and Penalties**
- Timeline for implementation**
- Report**

Annexes:

- **Annex I – accessibility requirements and Functional performance criteria**
- **Annex II – examples**
- **Annex III – accessibility requirements for built environment**
- **Annex IV – Conformity assessment of products**
- **Annex V- Information on services meeting accessibility requirements (general terms and conditions)**
- **Annex VI – Assessment of disproportionate burden**



Further information

European Disability Strategy 2010-2020: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0636:FIN:EN:PDF>

European Accessibility Act Final text in OJ
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2019.151.01.0070.01.ENG

European Accessibility Act - European Commission Proposal
<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1202>

EAA EUR-LEX texts
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/HIS/?uri=COM:2015:0615:FIN>

Web Accessibility Directive
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/web-accessibility>

Electronic Communication Code and Audiovisual Media Framework
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/right-environment-digital-networks-and-services>

Public Procurement Directives
https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/public-procurement/rules-implementation_en

EU Structural and investment Funds
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes/overview-funding-programmes/european-structural-and-investment-funds_en