



Estonian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union



Kodanikuühiskonna
Sihtkapital



EESTI PUUETEGA INIMESTE KODA
THE ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF DISABLED PEOPLE



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European Accessibility Act

Document for information and discussion

Purpose

This document serves to update the Board on progress on the Act, and plan joint action now towards member states.

Questions

- 1) How can we better involve EDF members to influence the national governments? Member States which require more effort include Germany, Finland, Denmark, Czech Republic, and others.
- 2) What tools would be useful for EDF members to address their national governments? More communication material, technical comments, background information?

European Parliament

- Following the vote in plenary on 14 September, most of [EDF's priorities were adopted and there were several significant improvements](#) compared to the IMCO report. This is the result of a successful campaign of EDF and especially its members.
- The [position of the Parliament](#) now includes a binding clause on the built environment (even though it is restricted to the provision of banking, transport, and telephony services); the link to Public Procurement and EU structural funds remains intact; transport has been improved; several improvements have been made in the Annex.
- However, it is regrettable that microenterprises will be completely excluded from the scope of the Act.
- With the position adopted, the European Parliament will now enter into negotiations with the [Council](#) and the Commission as soon as possible.



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Council

- Convincing the Council to be more ambitious in its approach will be EDF's next big task in relation to the Accessibility Act. They will have the last word on the text and are known to be even "tougher" than the Parliament. The Council is also much less transparent.
- We met with the [Estonian Presidency](#) on 28 August and we hope to engage actively with them to ensure a good cooperation. We also invited representatives of the Ministry to attend the Accessibility Act conference in Narva and Tallinn to spread our message.
- The work of EDF members will be even more crucial now than with the Parliament. We need to activate everyone to continue a good dialogue with the national ministries and if necessary launch a strong campaign to raise awareness on national level. The secretariat will follow up on this soon.
- We hope to find the possibility to organise a workshop with Council representatives in order to train them properly on accessibility and disability issues.