



## Press Release:

# A single click closer to web accessibility

4 February 2014

ANEC-PR-2014-PRL-003

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

**ANEC welcomes adoption of a series of European standards on accessibility requirements for the public procurement of ICT products and services<sup>1</sup>. The standards were drafted by CEN/CENELEC/ETSI with the participation of industrial and societal stakeholders, including ANEC, in answer to a request from the European Commission. The functional accessibility requirements for the procurement of products and services in the ICT domain, such as web-sites, will harmonise e-accessibility in the Internal Market and benefit consumers with disabilities and older consumers.**

"The next step towards achieving web and e-accessibility is the adoption by Council and Parliament of the directive on the accessibility of the websites of public sector bodies" said ANEC Secretary-General, Stephen Russell. "Last autumn, we welcomed the report of the Parliament's Committee on Internal Market & Consumer Protection (IMCO) on the web-accessibility directive as it brought significant improvements to the Commission proposal, in line with ANEC's position. MEPs agreed on extension of the scope to other basic services delivered online, and clarified that both websites designed for access from a handheld mobile device and mobile applications need to be covered."

"We now look to the Council to quicken its approval process so the directive can be adopted, if not by the end of this legislature, then at least by the autumn" added Mr Russell. "Websites need to be designed in an accessible manner, and in compliance with accessibility standards, if consumers with disabilities and older consumers are

---

<sup>1</sup> EN 301 549, TR 101 550, TR 101 551 and TR 101 552.

to be able to access the Internet. Sadly, most websites - including public sector websites - do not conform to these voluntary standards and so the information they contain is closed to many consumers. We need legislation to make it happen<sup>2</sup>".

ENDS

## 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.



***Raising standards for consumers***

**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](mailto:anec@anec.eu)  
EC Register of Interest Representatives:  
Identification number 507800799-30  
[www.anec.eu](http://www.anec.eu)  
<http://companies.to/anec/>



ANEC is supported financially by the European Union & EFTA

*This document may be quoted and reproduced, provided the source is given.  
This document is available in English upon request from the ANEC Secretariat or from the ANEC  
website at [www.anec.eu](http://www.anec.eu)*

© Copyright ANEC 2014

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://goo.gl/aEGM4A>