



The voice of blind and partially sighted people in Europe

## **European Blind Union**

### **Press release**

**Paris, 28/02/2018**

### **How Accessible will the Europe of the Future be for the Blind and Partially Sighted? The European Blind Union releases a new Position Paper on the “European Accessibility Act”.**

Since 2015, a new regulation on accessibility has been in the making in Brussels. This “European Accessibility Act” (EAA) aims to harmonise the requirements for accessibility of goods and services. “This act can be a breakthrough”, says Wolfgang Angermann, President of the European Blind Union (EBU). However, a watering-down of the regulation looms on the horizon. On 1 March, interinstitutional negotiations between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission will begin. This “trilogue”, which takes place behind closed doors, has clipped the wings of several ambitious initiatives before.

To shape the debates in the Trilogue, EBU publishes today a new Position Paper on the EEA. The European Blind Union represents 30 Million blind and partially sighted Europeans, who encounter inaccessibility on a daily basis. “Booking a vacation online, taking the train to work or reading a book for school often pose unsurmountable challenges for us”, explains President Angermann. EBU therefore demands a comprehensive scope for the upcoming regulation as well as clear functional criteria for accessibility. Additionally, EBU demands binding rules on the built environment and a minimisation of exemptions and restrictions on the applicability of the EAA.

Read the [EBU Position Paper and a point-by-point analysis of the negotiation positions](#) (in English)

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**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 42 European countries.

6 rue Gager Gabillot 75015 PARIS (France)

Tel: +33 1 47 05 38 20 Fax: +33 1 47 05 38 21

Contact: [ebu@euroblind.org](mailto:ebu@euroblind.org)

[www.euroblind.org](http://www.euroblind.org)

Twitter @euroblind

The EBU campaign on EAA is led by our member in Germany, the German Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted. Contact Benedikt van den Boom; E-Mail: [b.vandenboom@dbsv.org](mailto:b.vandenboom@dbsv.org); Phone: +49 30 28 53 87 120)