

Open conference on the Results from Phase 1 of Standards Mandate 376: Public Procurement of accessible ICT in Europe

Review of Day One

Gill Whitney
**Chair of Design for All and Assistive
Technology Standardisation
Coordination Group**



Welcome Address
Belinda Pyke
Director, European Commission, DG
Employment Social Affairs and equal
opportunities - Directorate Equality
between Men and Women, Action against
Discrimination, Civil Society

- Accessibility to ICT is a prerequisite for inclusion
- Standardisation process offers a chance of dialogue between the actors who can ensure accessibility.

Position Statement - Rodolfo Cattani, EDF

- Access to ICT should be a right for all but people with disabilities fear exclusion.
- There is a need for legislation and standardisation to work together.
- There is a need for a harmonised international approach.
- E-Accessibility in public procurement is essential.

Position Statement Tony Graziano, EICTA

- Support the use of public procurement to aid harmonization and transparency and avoid discrimination for the benefit of older and disabled people.
- Regulation must be easy for all including industry and procurers.
- Support the use of supplier identification to demonstrate accessibility rather than the use of third party certification or accessibility labelling.

The International Perspective -

David Capozzi, USA Access Board

- Progress of review of Section 508.
- Need for harmonised standards.
- The results of the Section 508 review should be clear, consensus driven, testable, reliable and harmonised throughout the world.

The International Perspective - Judy Brewer, W3C

- Need for world wide standards, to enable access to global ICT systems and services.
- Role of authoring tools to support the development of accessible web content.
- W3C - Policy of creation of agreed consensus produced translations.
- WAI AGE project.

The Commission's policies in the area of disability, e-accessibility and expectations from the mandate.

- Ima Placencia, DG Employment
- Martina Sindelar, DG Enterprise
- Paul Timmers, DG Information society

Main points from Ima, Martina and Paul

- Accessibility is a focus for the commission.
- Pleased with progress so far but expectations are high.
- Mandates are a strong tool used to support specific policy areas which need the support of member states.
- Future global market for accessibility.

Main points from Ima, Martina and Paul

- Accessible goods, services and structures are essential for non-discrimination.
- High importance to ensure better quality of life, reduced cost of accessible products and business opportunities.
- Grey wave is focusing further attention on disability.
- UN convention of Rights of People with Disabilities.

European Accessibility Requirements for ICT Public Procurement

Presentation by the ETSI/TC HF/STF333

- The commenting period is open until Aug 11th.
- Wide variety of ICT products that are procured identified.
- Wide variety of international and national standards and guidelines found.
- Standards often do not match identified requirements.
- Gap analysis revealed 48 gaps.
- Nothing stopping phase 2, but it will have to change over time.

Questions from the Audience

- The toolkit – accessible, available in all languages, use appropriate technology, meet the needs of all potential users.
- Toolkit needs to be updateable.
- The document needs an executive summary.
- Toolkit once created has to be marketed and embedded in the procurement process.
- Issue of the procurement threshold – many contracts are too small.
- Quality of standards.