



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 11 July 2018

Start of Austrian Presidency of the EU

We count on the Austrian Presidency to successfully conclude the negotiations on the European Accessibility Act

July 2018 | While Austria has just started its Presidency, AGE Platform Europe expects the negotiations to be finally concluded after more than two years of procedure.

Millions of people in Europe are still excluded from using basic products and services that are taken for granted for other people. The European Accessibility Act will provide the opportunity to harmonise the accessibility obligations and requirements for products and services within the European Union's internal market, reducing barriers and costs **for all citizens including 80 million persons with disabilities and 190 million people aged 50 and older.**

We therefore call on the Austrian Presidency of the European Union to build on the progress made during the Bulgarian Presidency to finally deliver a strong and effective European Accessibility Act.

"The European Accessibility Act is a key instrument for promoting age-friendly environments and addressing Europe's demographic ageing in a sustainable and effective way", pointed out Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Secretary General, *"AGE Platform Europe and its members warmly welcome the commitment of the Austrian Presidency to conclude the negotiations on this essential EU legislation."*

With the ratification by Ireland in March 2018, the European Union and all Member States have now ratified the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (UN CRPD), which commits them, under [article 9](#) of the CRPD, to deliver accessible products and services to all their citizens. This is why the European Accessibility Act should be one of the priorities (the so-called '[big issues](#)') of the EU Presidency, on which the EU has to deliver promptly. Only then will the motto of the Austrian Presidency '*A Europe that protects*' include ALL citizens, including persons with disabilities and older persons.

- END-

Useful links:

- [Accessibility... \(time to\) Act!](#)
- [Website of the Austria Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#)

Note to the editor

About AGE Platform Europe:



AGE is a European network of organisations of and for people aged 50+ aiming to voice and promote the interests of the 190 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. www.age-platform.eu

For more information, please contact:

Anne Mélard
Information and Communication Officer
anne.melard@age-platform.eu
Tel: +32 2 280 14 70
www.age-platform.eu



*AGE policy work is co-funded by the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme** of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of AGE Platform Europe and ENNHRI and cannot be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.*