

EN
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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
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Directive (EU) 2019/882 (European Accessibility Act, EAA)¹ sets mandatory accessibility requirements for certain products and services. Where public sector bodies provide such services, they must comply with those requirements. Regarding services, the EAA is enforced by national authorities responsible for the compliance of services. To establish cooperation among those authorities and gain a common understanding of the situation, an informal Commission expert group on the EAA was created under Article 28 of the Act.

Directive (EU) 2016/2102 (Web Accessibility Directive, WAD)² regulates public sector bodies' websites and mobile applications by setting obligations for the Member States to set minimum harmonisation accessibility requirements³. Article 8 of WAD obliges the Member States to monitor the compliance of the public sector websites and mobile applications with the accessibility requirements and submit a report every three years to the Commission. The Member States' reports are then published⁴⁵. The Commission WAD expert group is a forum for Member States to exchange best practices concerning WAD, including its accessibility requirements and reporting obligations.

The accessibility requirements of the EAA and WAD⁶ address a wide range of disabilities including learning disabilities such as dyslexia.

Since 2022, the Commission launched a European resource centre, AccessibleEU⁷, designed, *inter alia*, to support the implementation of EU accessibility legislation. Moreover, the above-mentioned EAA expert group brings together market surveillance authorities, industry experts, and organisations of persons with disabilities to exchange best practices.

¹ Directive (EU) 2019/882 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on the accessibility requirements for products and services (OJ L 151, 7.6.2019, PP.70-115, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/882/oj>).

² Directive (EU) 2016/2102 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on the accessibility of the websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies (OJ L 327, 2.12.2016, pp. 1–15, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2016/2102/oj>).

³ Public sector bodies cover e.g. public bodies responsible for agriculture and fisheries. However, there are some exceptions in the applicable scope as stated in Article 1 WAD. For example, Member States have the option of excluding websites and mobile applications of schools, nurseries, and kindergartens from the applicable scope in situations where the content is not related to essential online administrative functions.

⁴ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/web-accessibility-directive-monitoring-reports-2022-2024>.

⁵ See, e.g., Web Accessibility Directive – Monitoring reports 2022-2024, <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/web-accessibility-directive-monitoring-reports-2022-2024>.

⁶ Accessibility requirements of WAD are linked to the harmonised European standard EN 301 549, which refers to a large extent to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

⁷ https://accessible-eu-centre.ec.europa.eu/index_en.