



Romanian Parliament
Senate

Bucharest, 3 February 2016

OPINION

of the ROMANIAN SENATE

regarding the *Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services*

COM(2015) 615 final

The Romanian Senate examined the *Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services - COM(2015) 615 final* – according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 2).

Taking into account the joint report of January 29, 2016 of the permanent Committee for European Affairs and the Juridical Committee for discipline, immunities and validations, and the supplementary joint report of the permanent Committee for European Affairs and the Juridical Committee for discipline, immunities and validations, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of February 2, 2016, decided as follows:

I. The proposal complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

II. The following are noted:

- a. The importance of this Directive for harmonizing at EU level the accessibility for products and services;
- b. The establishing of common requirements for the accessibility of certain key products and services;
- c. The lack of detailed description of how the accessibility requirements are to be applied to a product or service, and the description of only a number of general principles;
- d. The divergence of national laws on accessibility requirements, which could accentuate as Member States implement their obligations under the CRPD accessibility.

III. The following are considered necessary:

- a. Clarification of details of the way(s) of application of this Directive;

- b. Development of the European Commission guidelines to help Member States in the transposition and correct implementation of the Directive;
- c. Choosing a simplified procedure for conformity assessment procedures and existing market surveillance.

IV. It is considered sensitive and important:

- a. Inherent occurrence of additional costs through:
 - i. Redesigning products;
 - ii. Introduction of additional information on labels;
 - iii. Providing users with additional formats (audio / Brai) for instructions and the user manual of the product, so that the products meet all requirements of the draft directive.

V. The following are recommended:

- a. Introducing accessibility requirements in a way that economic operators of the Member States are not substantially affected;
- b. Facilitating free access to information, mainly to the know-how of the European countries experienced in the application of the current Directive;
- c. Prioritizing clear scope of the directive, according to the economic and social benefits;
- d. Economic impact analyzes prior to application deployment decision for a more accurate evaluation.

President of the Senate



Călin POPESCU-TĂRICEANU