DIGITALEUROPE welcomes the European Parliament vote on the European Accessibility Act and calls for a final future-proof result

Brussels, 14 September 2017

People with disabilities represent at least 16 % of the overall EU working age population. More than 45 million people in Europe, one in six, aged between 16 and 64 have a long-standing health problem or disability, while the proportion of older people is increasing at a faster rate than any other age group.

The digital industry is keenly aware of their great responsibility to make their products and services accessible to as many people as possible. Better accessibility of products and services also means more opportunities, respectively for fostering innovation, leveraging new markets and shaping a more inclusive digital society.

Cecilia Bonefeld-Dahl, Director-General of DIGITALEUROPE, said *"Today's European Parliament vote is a very first step in the right direction, introducing pragmatic changes to the obligations imposed on economic operators. It is good news to move away from the unsuitable CE marking framework. However, it is disappointing that the Parliament has failed to introduce the horizontal, functional accessibility requirements that would really make the legislation future-proof."*

"We hope the Member States will take this approach in their negotiations, allowing the necessary flexibility in the design choices of accessibility features and legal certainty when operating in the single market", she added.

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ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies. DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies.

DIGITALEUROPE's members include in total 25,000 ICT Companies in Europe represented by 61 corporate members and 37 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: http://www.digitaleurope.org

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