

## **SCRIPT – Accessibility Act – Video message by Marianne Thyssen**

My name is Marianne Thyssen. I am European Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs and I want to tell you that Europe cares about the rights of disabled people. I have presented a proposal to improve the lives of 80 million Europeans with a disability.

EU countries have different rules for making products and services accessible. Sometimes, they vary greatly. This makes it difficult for companies to make accessible products and services available across national borders.

Our proposal aims to change this so that disabled people from all over Europe can have better access to goods and services used in everyday life. These include for example computers, telephones and TVs, transport and banking services, and online shopping.

What can we achieve with this?

First, it will be easier for companies to reach other EU markets.

Second, citizens with disabilities will have a wider offer of accessible products and services at a better price.

Third, removing these barriers means that we can build a more inclusive society. With better access to education, more chances of finding a job, more independence and more opportunities to fully participate in society.