



EUROPEAN disability forum





What is EDF ?

- Representative organisation OF disabled people
- Created in 1997
- An independent and strong voice
- Full members are national councils of disabled people and European disability-specific NGOs
- Aim is to promote the rights of disabled people in all EU policies

European Disability Forum



Competences of the EU

- Activities of the EU shall include measures in the sphere of tourism (Article 3 EC)
- Decision-making by Council - unanimity requested
- New Constitution for Europe would have increased the possibilities for activities in the tourism area



Accessible tourism - a right

- Access to tourism is necessary in order to achieve social inclusion
- Inaccessibility means a barrier to the freedom of movement within the EU
- Accessibility is not costly!
- There is a great number of potential clients
- All people would benefit from accessible tourism



Key barriers

1. Lack of physical accessibility
2. Lack of reliable information

Therefore:

- Accessible tourism must be considered from a holistic perspective
- There is a need for increased coordination of tourism policies across Member States
- Disabled people need to be able to travel with confidence!



Need for a European label of accessibility

- There must be clear rules on when you are allowed to use various accessibility symbols.
- Independent evaluation of tourist sites - not self-assessment!
- It should not be possible to use accessibility labels inappropriately as marketing tools.
- Development of a European label of accessibility must be made in consultation with representative organisations of disabled people.



Disability awareness training

- Lack of awareness of staff is one main barrier today
- Attitudinal barrier can prevent disabled people from travelling at all
- Training for all staff would be a solution to this



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