

## ITU-EC Forum for Europe "Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL" 4-6 December 2019, St. Julian's, Malta

Dear Madam/Sir,

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have a vital role for ALL people's empowerment and represent an enabler for inclusion in the society. For persons with disabilities (PwD) accessible ICTs can remove barriers and help them to have an independent life, enjoy education, get a job or participate in cultural events or political processes. Therefore, we should all join efforts to identify and remove ICT accessibility barriers by all means to enable social and economic development and digital inclusion of all people, including PwD.

In this context, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the European Commission (EC) have joined forces to hold the second regional conference entitled **Accessible Europe**, which will be a multistakeholder platform to advance the implementation of accessible ICTs across Europe, in line with the ITU Europe Regional Initiative on "Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion".

It is our great pleasure to invite your organization to participate in this Regional Forum for Europe that will take place in **St. Julian's, Malta, from 4 to 6 December 2019**, and will be hosted by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Persons with Disability & Active Ageing (PSDAA) of the Government of Malta.

For more details, we invite you to visit the event website at <u>http://itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-19</u>, where information on the agenda, registration and logistics, together with other useful links, will be soon available and constantly updated. Please be informed that there is no participation fee.

We look forward to your active participation.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Mr. Joost KORTE Director General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion European Commission [Original signed]

Ms. Doreen BOGDAN-MARTIN Director Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union