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The Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF, www.mwfai.org) is the international association of companies with an interest in mobile and wireless communications including the evolution to 5G and the Internet of Things. Since 2008, the MWF has been promoting the accessibility of mobile communication devices, helping consumers identify accessible devices and supporting them in understanding what kind of accessibility features exist through the Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI, www.gari.info).

In this regard, the MWF has supported the development of the European Accessibility Act (EAA) and welcomes the Dutch transposition of the EAA, as it ensures a harmonized legal framework for accessibility across the member states and the EU internal market.

Beyond the requirements for a range of products and services to be accessible, we welcome the emphasis on information to the consumer – about available accessibility features and in accessible formats. This is indeed the key objective of the above mentioned GARI database, which endeavors to inform seniors, persons with disabilities, their family members and care givers, employers, universities, occupational therapists, and any consumer with specific access needs about accessibility solutions that already exist in today's devices.

Today, GARI features an online database where you can find information on the accessibility features in over 1,500 devices including mobile phones, tablets, Smart TVs and Wearables. You'll also find information on accessibility apps that work on these devices. The database is free to use, available online in 20+ languages (including Dutch) and is used by governments, user organizations, telecom providers and many other stakeholders around the world.

GARI constantly evolves based on feedback from the disability community, accessibility experts and the latest technological developments, and builds on partnerships with organizations around the world to expand and reach ever more users.

As an industry sector that is covered by the EAA, we share your objective of ensuring better information for consumers about the accessibility of mobile communication devices. We would therefore appreciate the opportunity to be involved and contribute our expertise in any subsequent discussions which may be considered pursuant to the implementation of the EAA (including possible rules under Article 33 of the Commodities Act).

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this submission.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Milligan
Secretary General, MWF
michael.milligan@mwfai.org