

6 & 7 décembre 2007

2^{ÈME} CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE
SUR LES GARES FERROVIAIRES



Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

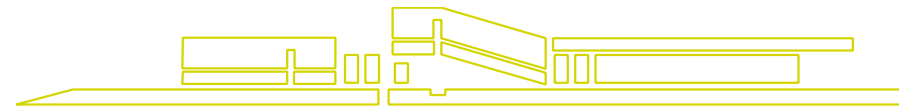
*Bas Treffers, vice-President
European Disability Forum*



European Disability Forum

- Created in 1997
- European platform of disability NGOs
- Organisation established by persons with disabilities and by their families
- An independent and strong voice

European Disability Forum



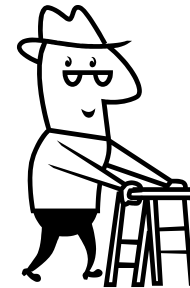
The right to non-discrimination

- Persons with disabilities should have equal access to rail travel
- Despite this, persons with disabilities experience today a multitude of barriers when travelling by rail
- Accessibility is a pre-requisite for equal opportunities and non-discrimination
- Accessibility is a rights issue, but equally an obligation through recent legislation



The diversity of disability

- Different disabilities = different needs!
- Design for All is the solution!



Financial aspects

- Design for all makes business sense – it creates value for owners
- Design for all is more user-friendly for everybody = more passengers
- Retrofitting inaccessible built environment is very expensive whereas building new accessible infrastructure does not imply additional costs
- In case of limited resources: a long-term commitment with clear deadlines is needed

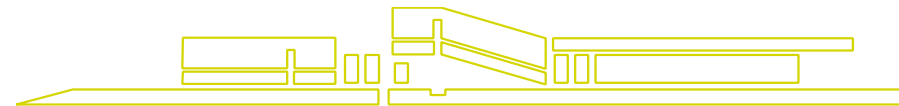
MOST IMPORTANTLY: access is a rights issue!



Key accessibility issues

- Access to the built environment
- Access to information
- Access to ticketing systems
- Assistance provision
- Accessible safety and emergency procedures

This requires close consultation with stakeholders!



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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