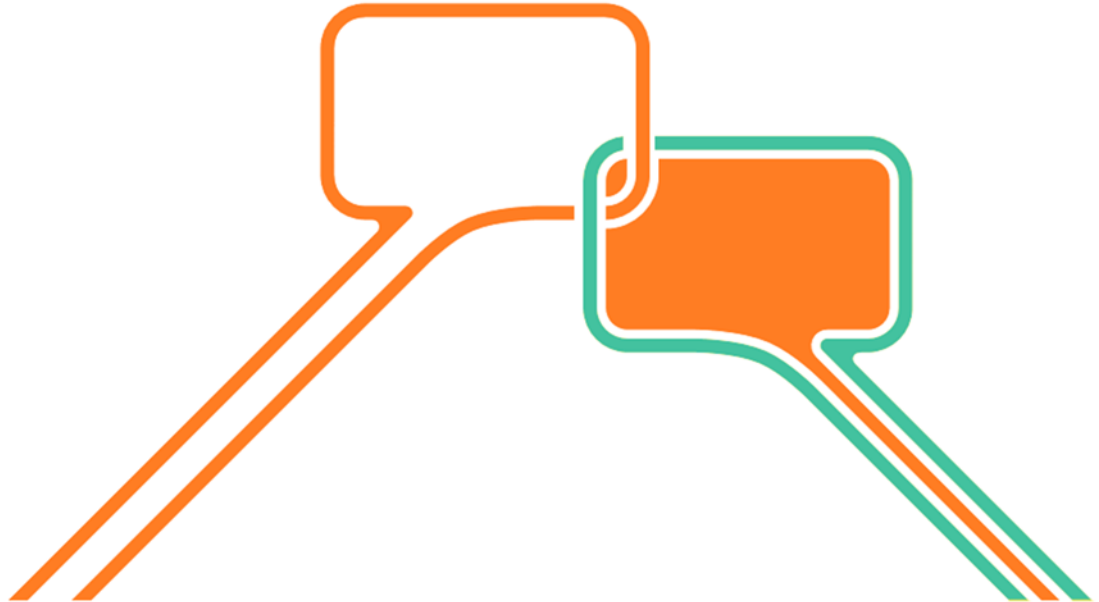


# Universal Service Obligations and Disabled End-Users Rights

## European Electronic Communications Code proposal

21<sup>st</sup> March 2017

European Parliament – IMCO Hearing



# Orange globally supports the draft EECC, including Universal Service and disabled end-users rights proposals

## Universal service obligations

- Universal, affordable and functional internet access service, is a core priority against exclusion
- Functional internet access service: to be defined by a minimum list of services for inclusion, to evolve overtime
- Sectoral funded universal service mechanism, selecting a specific provider, is inappropriate for universal service policy
  - Universal service obligations net cost measurement and allocation between competitors has led to endless litigations between firms, Members States and EU institutions, and is legally unstable, financially uncertain, economically insufficient
  - Universal service obligations benefit society as a whole, justifying its financing by general budget
- Universal service mechanism implies the monopoly of universal service provider for beneficiaries: this is inappropriate for mobile services

## Disabled end-users

- Disabled end-users should access services from a variety of undertakings
  - Focus on Internet Access Service and Interpersonal Communications Services
- The draft Code is more relevant and effective than the proposed Accessibility Act provisions for telecoms

# Thank You



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