

OPEN LETTER TO THE EU INSTITUTIONS:
WE DESERVE ACCESSIBLE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019
#BreakCommunicationBarriers #EUElections2019

EURO-CIU, European Association of Cochlear Implant Users, is a non-governmental and non-profit association, which was founded in Luxembourg in 1995, consists of 32 member associations from 23 European countries representing 220.000 deaf cochlear implant users across Europe.

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted device that provides access to sound for severely/profoundly deaf adults and children by stimulating the auditory nerve.

We call on the EU political leaders to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoy their right to vote and to stand for election, through the following actions:

- Ensuring that election campaign facilities and materials, political debates, political party programmes and websites are accessible to, and inclusive of, persons with disabilities, especially for our group, hard of hearing persons with a audiological device (cochlear implants) that helps them hear again.

That means we need **subtitles, captioning, speech-to-text services as well as loops. We cannot vote totally informed, if we cannot follow the news, the televised debate, political meetings or the videos on the political websites because they are not accessible.** Nowadays, thanks to technology, this is not that difficult, and it should a right and not a demand.

Candidates to become or be re-elected as Members of the European Parliament should **think about us as possible voters that they can reach easily with just a command to their publicists, adjusting their adverts to differentiate themselves from the competition.**

We hope the next 2019 European Elections open a way for an accessible debate where no one, including persons with disabilities, is left behind.

Support:

**#Accessibility #EUROCIU18 #Accessible
#subtitles #captioning #CochlearImplant**

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