

EFESME and Small Business Standards react to European Commission Evaluation of the Lifts Directive

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EFESME and Small Business Standards (SBS) welcome the results of the European Commission's recent evaluation of the Lifts Directive, carried out by CSES, in which both associations actively participated. **The evaluation confirms that the Directive remains fit for purpose and aligns closely with the positions that our organisations have championed over the years.**

Crucially, **the only significant shortcoming identified concerns the competitiveness of the maintenance market. Restricted access to lifts, tools, instructions, and electronic components have long limited the ability of lift owners to switch maintenance providers.** Technological developments, such as digital locks on lift electronics and the push towards the imposition of proprietary solutions by large manufacturers, have further exacerbated these barriers, particularly affecting SMEs offering maintenance and repair services, putting them at a very concrete risk of being locked out of economic opportunities. **This issue has been a central focus of EFESME and SBS's advocacy for many years, and its recognition in the evaluation represents both a validation of our organisations' positions and a strong foundation for continued action.**

The evaluation also notes that some aspects of the Directive are limited in scope, including the outdated Annex III list of safety components and the lack of coverage of accessibility for persons with disabilities.

EFESME and SBS look forward to continuing to work closely with the European Commission to address these points and ensure the Directive remains safe, effective, and fully relevant for the sector.

Small Business Standards (SBS) is the European association representing and supporting small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) in the standardisation process, both at European and international levels.

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