

**Question for written answer P-000533/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Apple's failure to comply with EU norms

In 2009, 14 mobile phone manufacturers, including Apple, signed a memorandum of understanding on harmonising chargers for all mobile phones available on the EU market. In 2010, the Commission said that micro-USB would be the official standard charger for portable devices. Most manufacturers have adapted their products to EU standards and changed the charging port for all mobile phones entering the market as from 2011 to micro-USB. Apple, alone, has not changed its charging port. What is more, it replaced its 30-pin charger with Lightning for the iPhone 5, which was released onto the market in 2012, which means that customers who wanted to buy a new model also had to buy a new charger. Apple offers adapters, but these are not so much a solution as yet another item adding to the 51 000 or so tonnes of electronic waste the EU generates each year. In 2013, the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee drew up a proposal to minimise the volume of electronic waste and make life easier for users by bringing the universal charger into rules on the marketing of telecommunications equipment. To this day, however, Apple phones still have not been fitted with micro-USB charging ports.

1. Has the Commission given up on trying to harmonise chargers for all mobile phones on the EU market?
2. How is it planning to tackle the above issue?