

Promoting the repair of goods

In March 2023, the European Commission proposed a directive on promoting the repair of goods, seeking to mitigate current linear business and consumption patterns, marked by frequent and premature replacement and discarding of goods. The provisional political agreement reached in February 2024 by the Parliament and Council is scheduled for a vote during the April II plenary session.

Background

According to the Commission, the [premature disposal](#) of viable consumer goods generates 261 million tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions, uses 30 million tonnes of resources unnecessarily, and results in 35 million tonnes of waste in the EU every year. And consumers opting for replacement instead of repair lose approximately €12 billion per year. Consumer organisations have long [complained](#) that products tend to break down faster than in the past, and that repairing them is often too costly. Repair businesses miss out on potential demand, while manufacturers continue investing in unsustainable business models. In April 2022, Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on the 'right to repair', in which it called on the Commission to ensure that consumers are empowered to choose repairable products.

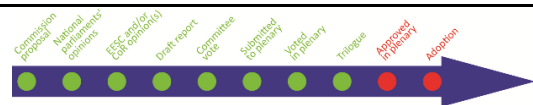
European Commission proposal

The Commission [proposal](#) for a directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods aims to increase the repair and reuse of viable defective goods within and beyond the legal guarantee. It would lay down various measures: i) an obligation to repair goods to which reparability requirements under EU legal acts apply; ii) informing consumers about producers' repair obligation; iii) online national repair platforms, matchmaking consumers with repairers and sellers of refurbished goods; iv) a European repair information form for consumers to compare repair opportunities; and v) a voluntary European quality standard for repair services, which would help consumers identify repairers who commit to certain quality standards. According to the proposal, the seller should always repair the goods whenever the cost of replacement is equal to or greater than the cost of repair.

European Parliament position

Based on the [report](#) of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), Parliament adopted its [position](#) on 21 November 2023. Parliament sought to improve the attractiveness of repair by i) reducing the level of inconvenience for consumers, and ii) strengthening the repair market. Parliament and Council negotiators reached a [provisional agreement](#) on 2 February 2024. Under the [deal](#), each Member State will have to introduce at least one measure to **promote repair**, such as repair vouchers and funds, information campaigns, repair courses or support for community-led repair spaces, or – in line with existing rules on taxation – a reduction in the VAT rate on repair services. Manufacturers will have to **make spare parts and tools available** at a reasonable price, and they should **not use contractual clauses, hardware or software techniques to obstruct repairs**. In particular, they should not impede the use of second-hand or 3D-printed spare parts by independent repairers. As called for by Parliament, the legal guarantee period will be **extended by one year** for repaired products. Coreper endorsed the [agreed text](#) on 1 February, and IMCO voted unanimously in favour on 22 February.

First-reading report: [2023/0083\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: IMCO; Rapporteur: René Repasi (S&D, Germany). For further information, see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



[Outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe](#): This proposal is relevant for measures 5(6), (7), (10); 11(2).

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Author: Stefano Spinaci, Members' Research Service
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epres@ep.europa.eu (contact) <http://www.eprs.ep.parl.union.eu> (intranet) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank> (internet) <http://eprthinktank.eu> (blog)