



Common Charging Connector and Unbundling for Mobile Phones and Similar Devices

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Background: main steps

- 2009: the Commission facilitated a MoU signed by the main manufacturers which reduced the number of charging solutions from 30 to 3.
- 2014: the first MoU ended, amid new negotiations to renew it.
- 2014: the new Radio Equipment Directive (RED) was adopted, under which the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts to ensure the interoperability of electronic devices with common chargers.
- 2014-2018: the Commission made efforts to reach consensus on a new MoU. Unfortunately, the MoU proposed in March 2018 was not satisfactory as it did not provide a single common charging solution.
- 30 January 2020: the European Parliament intervened with a 'Resolution on a universal charger for mobile radio equipment'.

Commissioned Studies

- 2020: **Impact assessment study on common charger of portable devices**
(<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/c6fadfea-4641-11ea-b81b-01aa75ed71a1>)
 - Imposing a common connector on the electronic device while encouraging or imposing unbundling would benefit consumers and reduce electronic waste.
- 2021: **Impact assessment study on unbundling of chargers for mobile phones and similar portable electronic equipment** (still ongoing – will be published)
 - Combining common connector, common charging communication protocol, information to consumer and unbundling of charger returns the best synergy effect of impacts
- 2021: **Assessment study of the status of wireless charging technologies used for mobile phones and similar portable electronic equipment** (just closed - will be published)
 - Wireless charging is still in its early stages of development and there are no worrying signs of fragmentation.

Elements under consideration

- Harmonize the **charging connector on the radio equipment end side** (USB Type C, with an empowerment to take into account technical progress); brands; → Will allow consumer to charge his device with any EPS (External Power Supply) irrelevant of the brands;
- Guarantee **interoperability of charging** through the support of common charging communication protocol. (USB PD, with an empowerment to take into account technical progress); → Will allow fast charging devices to interwork with most of the chargers and will trigger further convergence towards a common charging communication protocol also on EPS side
- **Inform consumers** about charging requirements of their electronic devices as regard to the EPS to use; → Will allow consumer to make informed decision when buying a new EPS;
- Offer an **unbundled solution** by means of selling the charger separately from the electronic device (obliged to sell unbundled or offer both options, bundled and unbundled). → Will trigger environmental benefits by reducing the amount of EPS sold and therefore produced.
- **Scope of devices:** Mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones and earphones

Thank you



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