Subject: Planned obsolescence — enhancing consumer protection

Planned obsolescence is understood as one aspect of a product strategy which involves the development of solutions with a predictably short shelf life, the use of poor-quality raw materials and/or a refusal to provide spare parts, with the aim of ensuring that a product becomes defective more quickly. Consumers are thus forced to buy a new product. Planned obsolescence therefore involves the deliberate incorporation of faults in a given product with that precise aim in view.

Is the Commission aware of cases where equipment — such as printers — affected by planned obsolescence has been supplied to the EU institutions?

What information does it have concerning the economic costs incurred by consumers in the EU Member States as a result of planned obsolescence in 2017, 2018 and 2019?

What (estimated) volume of resources could be saved annually if planned obsolescence were to be prevented?