

**Question for written answer E-000705/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Computer printer e-waste and EU measures to tackle it

Computer printers are a significant source of e-waste. Many computer printer manufacturers operate through a business model where low-cost printers lock consumers in to ink cartridge replacements exclusively from that manufacturer. Not only is this a monopolistic practice, it is wasteful and harmful to the environment.

The EU has pursued various measures to tackle e-waste, including the introduction of a 'common charger' for portable electronic devices. The recent preparatory study from the Joint Research Centre on printers and cartridges¹ recommends abandoning self-regulation under voluntary agreements for imaging equipment, and instead putting in place binding requirements.

1. Will the Commission put in place measures to remove electronic and physical barriers to the remanufacture, repair and reuse of imaging products, and not just their recycling?
2. Will it, for example, consider legislation to permit only the sale of universally usable printer cartridges in the single market, in a similar manner to the common charger legislation?
3. What else is the Commission considering in order to reduce e-waste from printers?

Submitted:6.3.2024

¹ Joint Research Centre, *Imaging equipment and its consumables. Preparatory study for ecodesign*. JRC Science for Policy Report, 2023.