

ORAL QUESTION H-0667/08
for Question Time at the part-session in September II 2008
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure
by Bilyana Ilieva Raeva
to the Commission

Subject: Standardisation of entry plug connectors of the various peripherals for GSM handsets

In recent years, with the steady growth of the use of mobile telephones, their standards have been changing all the time (even between models of one and the same brand). This needlessly increases the spending on accessories.

The main reason for this anomaly is the lack of a uniform standard for entry plug connectors of the various peripherals (chargers, headsets, transmission cables), which would be universally valid for all GSM handset brands. Needless to say, the monopolisation of peripherals impairs competition, which in turn holds back quality and inflates prices.

Standardisation of peripherals (say, to USB format), would reduce costs and would facilitate the mobile telecommunication service, enhance consumer protection and competition, increase the demand for mobile services, reduce waste of electrical and electronic equipment, and save energy, materials, and resources.

What would the Commission do to initiate the requisite procedure, whereby we could encourage harmonisation of requirements in this sphere within the EU, as well as convince all stakeholders that this effort is in the best public interest?

Tabled: 25.07.2008
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