



Raising standards for consumers

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One charger for all devices will help consumers and the environment



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For many years, ANEC – the European consumer voice in standardisation – and other consumer organisations have been calling on manufacturers to provide a common external power supply for mobile phones and other devices. The present plethora of chargers – both within brands and among brands - represents unnecessary costs to the consumer in their direct (or implied) purchase, and to the environment in the extraction of the raw materials for their construction and in their disposal.

We welcome the European Commission's legislative proposals about mandatory common chargers for mobile phones and other digital devices such as tablets, digital cameras, notebooks. We also welcome that the Commission is given the power to update the legal provisions to take into account future technical innovation.

We think consumers should have the choice to buy or not buy a new charger each time a new device is purchased (so-called or unbundling opt-in). Consumers should be informed about the possibility of using a charger they already have at the point/moment of sale.

The charging speed is a key factor and fragmentation is already happening as several open and proprietary solutions are present on the market. We are pleased to see that the legislation is addressing this point as well and ensuring that consumers are informed about it. Lack of interoperability and lack of information result in consumer detriment.

Wireless charging systems should also be considered as already now many smartphones are using the Qi standard for charging. It is therefore important to avoid any fragmentation in this area as well. Bearing in mind that legislation takes time to be discussed and adopted, we think that the proposed legislation should already cover wireless charging.

Many consumers with disabilities and older consumers struggle to identify or properly use the charger needed for their device. The lack of uniformity currently present (chargers in different shapes and sizes) makes usability difficult. By adhering to a consistent and common design, the experience of persons with disabilities will greatly improve.



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We believe that the legislation to be adopted should provide to Member States for strong market surveillance resources to be able to take out from the market dangerous products. It should not be forgotten that at the moment many unsafe chargers are available on the market.

Effective standardisation of charging equipment for as many devices as possible, and a requirement for consumers to have the option to make an informed choice on whether to buy a new charger or use one they already have, will be beneficial to consumers and the environment.

ENDS.



ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation and the use of standards, as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

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