



To:

Cc:

Subject:

SGD/R2R Meeting with Right to Repair coalition - Short report

Dear all

Please find below the short report of an interesting and constructive meeting yesterday with a group of environmental NGOs as well as stakeholders representing the repair/refurbishment industry, which together established the Right to Repair campaign.

[REDACTED] explained the context, purpose and timing of the Right to Repair Initiative as foreseen in the Letter of Intent as well as its relationship with other Commission strands of work on sustainability.

The stakeholders explained that:

- in general, they welcome changes to the SGD;
- they understand that promoting repair may lead to a divergence between environmental objectives and the promotion of consumers' economic interests and that there is no consensus in the movement which of these objectives should be prioritised in case of a conflict. Some organisations oppose measures which do not aim primarily at the environmental objectives of longer use of products, more repair and less waste. Even those NGOs which spoke in favour of increasing consumer protection, argued for a re-design of the hierarchy of remedies of the consumer in the SGD in order to take into account more the environmental objectives.
- any new measures should carefully analyse the impact on the independent repair sector, who struggle to offer competitive repair prices due to certain practices of the manufacturers (allowing independent repairers to only carry out certain types of repair or restricting access spare parts); and
- consumers should have a right to choice who will carry out their repairs.

On the issue of a horizontal extension of the legal guarantee period, some environmental organisations oppose it as it would not lead to more repair and less waste. They mentioned that such an extension would encourage consumers to replace products instead of repairing them, treating products with less care as they could replace it during a longer time and would further disadvantage independent repairers that are not involved in repairs within the legal guarantee period.

It was agreed to organise the next meeting once the Call for Evidence is published to discuss substantive questions in more detail.

