

Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Exchange of view at ITRE committee
Brussels, 1 December 2015

Name of Cabinet Member: Jackub Cebula

BASIS request ID: 3769

Room, time: Jozsef Antall 2Q2 10.30 to 11.30

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Directorate/Unit: GROW/A3

Defensive package

1. UNIVERSAL CHARGER

EP related information

- MEPS are in favour of a common charger. A concrete reference to a common charger was a major issue at the time of the adoption of the revised Radio Equipment Directive (2014)

Defensives / Q&A

1. What are the Commission initiatives for ensuring a common charger for mobile telephones in the EU?

- A 'Study on the impact of the MOU on harmonisation of chargers for mobile telephones and to assess possible future options' has been carried out. Based on the conclusions of this study, the Commission has invited the manufacturers to agree on a voluntary memorandum of understanding. Representatives of the manufacturers are expected to update us on the feasibility of the Memorandum of Understanding by mid-December 2015. In the absence of a voluntary agreement, the Commission will consider to follow the regulatory approach.

2. Why is the Commission waiting for an agreement from the manufacturers instead of immediately proposing legal action?

- The 2011/2012 MoU proved to be a success. The study confirmed that the market share of MoU compliant mobile telephones in 2013 was practically 100% within the category of data-enabled mobile telephones. Based on that experience the Commission gives priority to a voluntary agreement as it provides more flexibility with respect to the technical

solutions that will need to be agreed by the manufacturers since the beginning.

3. Will the Commission consider the extension of the harmonisation of chargers to other electronic portable devices?

- The Commission will consider the extension of the approach to other small portable devices such as e-readers, cameras, tablets and laptops. The harmonisation of chargers for these electronic devices should further contribute to a reduction of unnecessary waste and to make the everyday life of the citizens easier.