

Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs DG

Commissioner Bieńkowska

**BERL Room 11,
Commissioner Project Team (CPT) on Digital Single Market
(DSM)**

Friday 28 January 2015

BRIEFING NOTE

Scene setter:

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Name of Cabinet Member: COMPTOUR Fabrice

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3.5. Common charger

- *Why do we have to intervene?*
 - Harmonisation of chargers of mobile telephones is a unique opportunity for the EU to make the benefits of its action tangible for the citizens
 - Incompatibility of chargers is a nuisance for users of mobile telephones – in practice every EU citizen – and creates unnecessary waste
 - The 2009 voluntary industry Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was a success, it now needs to be consolidated and extended to the new generations of smartphones. The European Parliament has asked the Commission to take action in this area
- *What are the concrete actions foreseen?*
 - Either a new voluntary industry MoU, or a delegated act under the Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) should require smartphones to be compatible with a common charger
 - Harmonisation of chargers can be extended to other portable electronic devices, e.g. cameras, e-readers, tablets, laptops
- *What is the state of play (road map sent)*
 - The Commission services are discussing with mobile telephone manufacturers their plans for a new MoU
 - An external study covering the evaluation of the 2009 MoU and the impact assessment of follow-up option was finalised in 2014
 - A new roadmap should be developed in the first quarter of 2015, Commission IA is to be initiated on the basis of the above mentioned external study
 - The Radio Equipment Directive enters into application in June 2016

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