

Meeting between Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska and XX
Brussels, 9 June 2016

Name of Cabinet Member: Mr. Hedberg

Name of the Director who has cleared the briefing: Gwenole Cozigou

BASIS request ID: CAB BIENKOWSKA/282

Room, time:

Participants: Gwenole Cozigou

Name of main contact person: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Directorate/Unit: C3

BRIEFING NOTE

Scene setter/Context of the meeting:

Mr Hedberg will meet with Mr Jaymeen Patel (Senior Government Affairs Manager, EMEIA) and Mr Per Hellstrom (Director). A one page update of the current situation with Apple has been requested.

Objective of the meeting:

Follow up of the meeting with Digital Europe on 3 May.

Background information

Common chargers – State of Play

On 15 December 2015, the Commission received the first draft of a "Letter of Intent on future common charging solution for smartphones" (see Annex) from Digital Europe. In the first part of the letter, Digital Europe acknowledges the success of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), highlighting that most of the manufacturers, also those who did not sign the MoU, now adopt a common charger (micro USB Type B). The only exception is currently represented by Apple, which keeps its proprietary interface ("Lightning"). The widespread adoption of the micro USB Type B is recognised as contributing to reduced waste and improving significantly consumer convenience.

State of play

At the request of Digital Europe, Mr Kristian Hedberg and Mr Carsten Bermig met a delegation of this association on 3rd May

2016 to talk about the MoU on the Common Charger for Smart Phones.

Digital Europe has communicated afterwards that the association would:

- a. Urge the members to agree on a MoU with clear commitments by mobile phone manufacturers on the common charger. The MoU is a binding commitment which is not the case of a Letter of Intent.
- b. The MoU would include a timeline indicating when the provisions on the transition to USB Type C will be binding.
- c. The technical solution would be either a cable with a USB Type C connector or a proprietary interface, like the 'Lightning' of Apple, with an adaptor to the USB Type C.
(See Annex)

It appears that there is not yet a full agreement between the manufacturers on the proposed solutions.

The representatives of Apple may want to explore other possibilities that are not brought to our attention. Apple had proposed in the past to harmonise the connector to the electricity in the walls. This is not the solution requested in particular by the European Parliament during the process of approval of the Radio Equipment Directive. The request was to have a common connector to the mobile phone.

Annex: Provision on cables and adapters
 Letter of Intent