

**Meeting of Gwenole Cozigou
with Klaus-Dieter Axt
(Motorola - Digitaleurope)**

25 October 2012

Brey 12/88 10:00

BRIEFING NOTE

1 STATE OF PLAY

According to the follow-up carried out by DG Enterprise and Industry in co-operation with the MoU signatories, implementation of the MoU progresses appropriately. A recent progress report provided by the MoU signatories has shown that more than 95% of the new models of data enabled mobile phones placed on the EU market by the signatories during the 1st half of 2012 offer the common charging capability. This indicates that the voluntary agreement has been successful in delivering benefits for citizens.

In a recent meeting (04/10/2012) between DG ENTR/F5 and representatives of the MoU signatories, these have pointed out that they consider the initiative as a success, which has solved a previous situation of market failure with many incompatible chargers. However, they were reluctant to extend the MoU as they estimate that the next generation of mobile phones (LTE) requires higher electrical capacity and higher battery voltage. As manufacturers are still exploring technical solutions for charging (including wireless charging) which fit the new needs, an extension of the MoU would interfere with innovation in this area.

Nevertheless, the MoU signatories expressed their willingness to continue a partnership with the Commission in order to avoid the currently satisfactory situation evolves into a new diversity of incompatible chargers. This partnership would be a less technically binding agreement as the current MoU.

2 FURTHER STEPS

The MoU Signatories will provide hard data on the impact of the MoU, tentatively by end of 2012. This should help to counter negative statements by some stakeholders. They will also investigate the possibility of issuing a press release on the current MoU and its future.

In view of the expiry of the MoU by the end of 2012 the Commission will examine appropriate follow-up measures and investigate the possibility of extending the agreement. In this respect, DG ENTR/F5 has the intention to launch a study to assess the results achieved with the MoU and to analyse options for follow up initiatives.

This study will have three objectives:

1. to assess the impact of the MoU on the EU market for mobile phones and their chargers;
2. to assess the impact of the MoU on the market for other small portable electronic devices such as digital cameras, tablets and music players;
3. and to provide options based on evidence on possible further steps of the MoU taking into account new technologies required by the next generation of mobile phones, and on a possible extension of the MoU to other small electronic devices

3 BACKGROUND

Following a request from the European Commission, major producers of mobile phones agreed in June 2009 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) to harmonise chargers for data-enabled mobile phones sold in the EU. The voluntary industry commitment was endorsed by Commission Vice-President Verheugen at a press conference on 29.6.2009¹.

Subsequently, following a mandate from the European Commission², the European Standardisation Bodies CEN-CENELEC and ETSI issued end 2010 the harmonised standards making technically possible the compatibility of data-enabled mobile phones with the new common charger as of 2011, namely the international and European standard IEC/CENELEC EN 62684 covering interoperability issues, and harmonised standard ETSI EN 301489-34 providing presumption of conformity of compliant common chargers with the EMC Directive³. The common charger solution is based in the Micro-USB connector technology.

Vice-President Tajani gave a press conference on 8th February 2011 announcing that the common charger would be introduced progressively in the market during 2011, an accompanying press release was published on the same day⁴. The initiative has been strongly supported by Members of the European Parliament and by the public, and has provided substantial visibility to the Commission in press, TV and radio.

The MoU expires end 2012. Further communication on the matter is foreseen by the Vice-President in Q4 2012 or Q1 2013⁵.

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All information relevant to the common charger is available at
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/rtte/chargers/index_en.htm

M/455 - Standardisation mandate to CEN, CENELEC and ETSI on a common Charging Capability for Mobile Telephones

³ Directive 2004/108/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility and repealing Directive 89/336/EEC

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/11/136&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

⁵ Document Ares(2012)411046 - 04/04/2012