



Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs DG

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Member of Cabinet Bieńkowska

**Meeting with Ms Lisa Jackson, VP of Environmental
Initiatives from APPLE**


Brussels, 14/09/2015, 15:00

BRIEFING NOTE

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1. Harmonisation of chargers

Key messages

- Incompatibility of chargers for mobile telephones is an inconvenience for users across the European Union and creates unnecessary electronic waste.
- In order to achieve a solution based on a common cable, manufacturers must agree on a voluntary agreement (memorandum of understanding) in order to place on the market mobile phones with the same connector (interface) which can accommodate and be interoperable with the common charger (cable).

Background information

In June 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in which mobile phone manufacturers agreed to harmonise chargers for new models of data-enabled handsets coming onto the market as of 2011. The MoU expired at the end of 2012 but it has been effectively extended by a number of its signatories through two subsequent 'Letters of Intent' signed in 2013 and 2014.

The Commission has taken contact with the representatives of major manufacturers of mobile telephones through Digital Europe and has invited them to make proposals to consolidate the achievements of the 2009 regarding Harmonisation of a Charging Capability for Mobile Phones and to ensure a smooth transition towards the next generation of devices. The representatives of Apple have required some bi-lateral meetings in order to explain their opinion.

Most stakeholders support the use of connector 'USB Type C' on the mobile phone.

APPLE, on the other hand, wishes to continue to use the specific connector to the I-phones which is their proprietary interest. More specifically, APPLE supports 'USB Type C' to be the standardized connector (interface) on a charger device but not on the mobile phone. The charger will then be connected with the mobile phone, via a detachable cable which on the "phone end" will only connect to Apple's proprietary connector but not to other mobiles phones.

The Commission will assess whether harmonisation of chargers can be ensured through a voluntary agreement. Article 3 of the new Radio Equipment Directive (Directive 2014/53/EU) allows the preparation of a delegated act for the harmonisation of mobile phone chargers, if necessary. The Directive is currently going through its transposition phase and will be applicable as of 13 June 2016.