

**Basis Cab Bienkowska/1044 – IMCO Committee Meeting  
21/02/2018**

**Contribution from Unit C3**

**Defensives / Q&A**

**Common Charger**

***Question: At the last IMCO scrutiny of the RED the Commission announced that a new draft of the MoU had been just submitted by the manufacturers. Which is the update on the Common charger?***

***Answer:***

- Mobile phone manufactures submitted a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the Commission. According to our assessment it does not satisfactorily meet the policy objectives of reducing electronic waste and ensuring a uniform fully interoperable charger. On the contrary, it risks increasing the fragmentation of different charging solutions on the market compared to the current situation.
- As the draft MoU falls short of the expectations largely discussed with industry, we are now considering alternative options, including a legislative initiative in line the powers conferred on to the Commission by the co-legislators, in order to achieve the desired policy objectives.

***Question: Why is the Commission still waiting for an agreement amongst manufacturers and not already working proactively on the legislative alternative?***

***Answer:***

- The first voluntary agreement was a success and the Commission has always fostered a second voluntary

agreement, relying on the responsibility of the manufacturers to deploy an effective EU-policy and avoid additional burden.

- A voluntary agreement has the advantage that it is flexible and easy to adapt to technological evolution in charging technologies.

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