

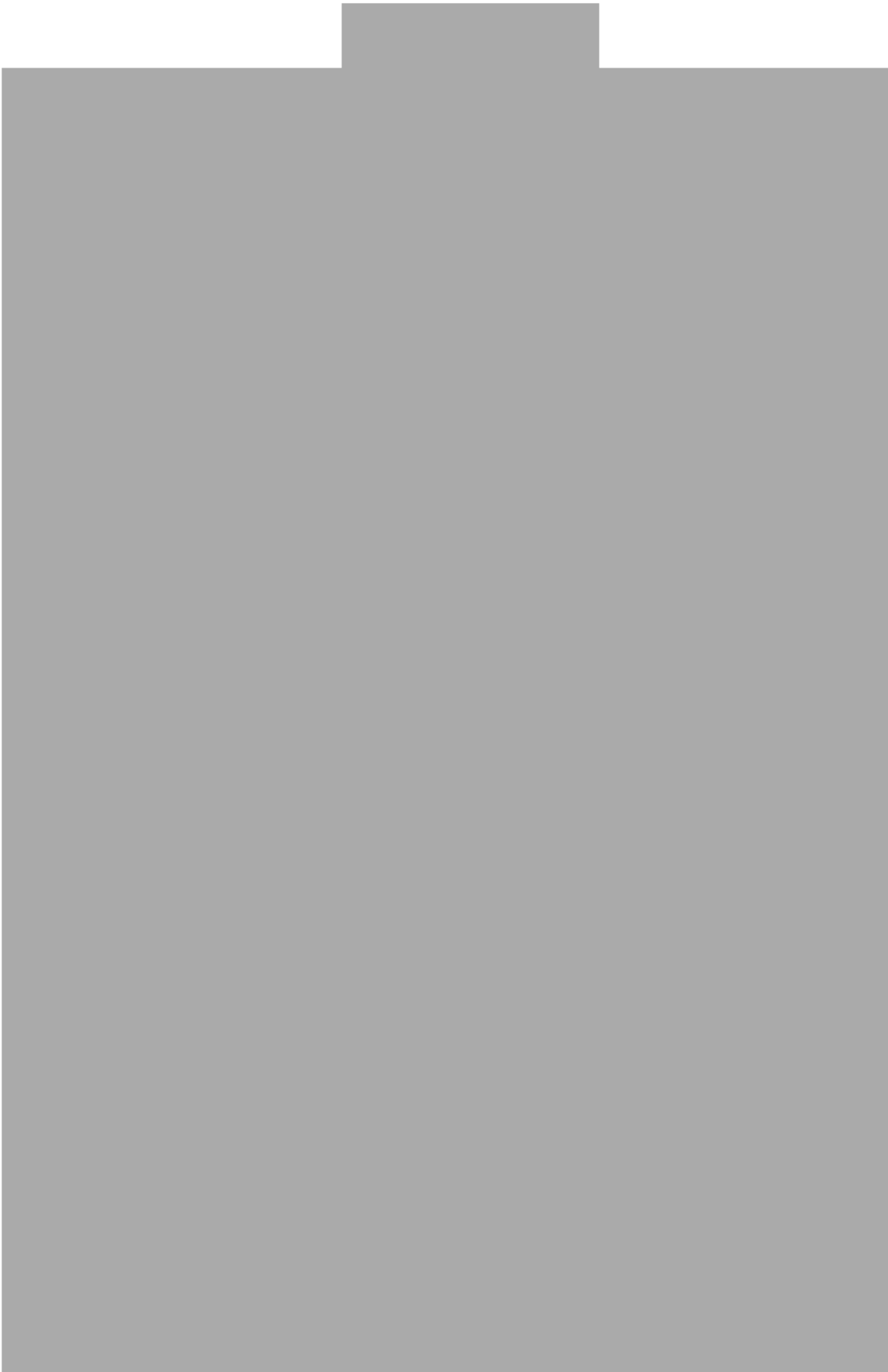


DG GROW
Meeting DG Pesonen - [REDACTED] – IMCO
**Upcoming Commission initiatives as well as the possible coalitions in the
European Parliament and the consequences for the Single Market
legislation**

BRIEFING NOTE (*Commission Internal*)

Scene setter/Context of the meeting





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Common charger

Question: Why the Commission took time since expiration of the MoU?

The Commission's preferred approach was to encourage a voluntary solution by the manufacturers. The idea was to let the industry to propose the best possible technical solutions while not hampering innovation. That collaborative spirit was the basis of the original MoU, which proved to be successful for both consumers and the industry, while guaranteeing reduction of e-waste. The Commission spent many efforts in that direction, by continuing liaising with the mobile phone industry to push them to agree on a new voluntary agreement.

Question: How does the Commission intend to tackle the technical evolution?

We are fully convinced of the need to come up with a future-proof solution, which would allow technological innovation in the sector. For these reason, the technical analysis we are carrying out will take into account new developments such as fast charging and wireless charging. The analysis will in particular focus on the identification of factors that could limit interoperability of devices using new charging solutions (which were not addressed by the proposed MoU at all) and/or prevent further innovation.

Background information

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

BASIS request ID: GROW/6950

Name of main contact person:

Telephone number:

Directorate/Unit: C/3

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Common charger

Following expiration of the first Memorandum of Understanding, which proved effective in substantially reducing fragmentation of the market, the Commission encouraged the mobile phone industry to reach a new voluntary agreement. Regrettably, the Memorandum of Understanding of 2018 falls short of our expectations as it did not guarantee the implementation of a common solution (which continued to allow for proprietary solutions instead) nor it addressed new technological challenges (fast/wireless charging). In addition, its scope continued to be limited to mobile phones only.

The Commission is conducting preparatory work for a possible delegated act aiming to implement a common solution for charging mobile phones and possibly other small and medium portable electronic devices. This work is supported by the legal basis provided by Article 3(3)(a) of the Radio Equipment Directive, that empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure that "radio equipment interworks with accessories, in particular with common chargers".

An Impact Assessment study intended to provide factual support to assess the costs and benefits of different options for implementing the common charger solution is ongoing. The study will report on the impacts that a new initiative aiming to limit fragmentation of the charging solutions for mobile phones and similar devices would have on consumers, on the industry and on the environment and will provide assessments of different policy options.

The study will be finalised by Q4 2019 and the delegated act can be adopted in 2020.