



Plenary sitting

27.01.2020

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) and (4) of the Rules of Procedure

replacing the following motions:

(EPP)

(S&D)

(Renew)

(Verts/ALE)

(ECR)

(GUE/NGL)

on a Common charger for mobile radio equipment

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the PPE Group

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the S&D Group

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the Renew Group

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the ECR Group

[Redacted signature block]

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

European Parliament Resolution on a Common charger for mobile radio equipment

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Directive 2014/53/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment and repealing Directive 1999/5/EC;
 - having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding harmonisation of charging capability for mobile phones, of 5 June 2009;
 - having regard to the Memorandum of Understanding on the future common charging solution for smartphones, of 20 March 2018;
 - having regard to the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the operation of the Radio Equipment Directive 2014/53/EU of 11 November 2018;
-
- A. whereas the single market has been, and remains, the basis for Europe's economic success, the cornerstone of European integration and an engine of growth and jobs;
 - B. whereas the single market is not exploiting its full potential and the continuation of market fragmentation for mobile phone chargers and for other small and medium-sized electronic devices, translates into an increase of e-waste and consumer frustration;
 - C. whereas consumers are still facing a situation of buying new devices from different sellers with different type of chargers and have to buy a new charger when purchasing a new device from the same seller;
 - D. whereas for more than 10 years Members of the European Parliament have been demanding for a common charger for mobile radio equipment, including mobile phones, tablets, e-book readers, smart cameras, wearable electronics and other medium or small electronic devices whereas the European Commission has been postponing the delegated act supplementing Directive 2014/53/EU on radio equipment;
 - E. Whereas the timely enforcement of adopted European Acts into concrete legislative steps are essential to the European Union's credibility for its citizens and on the international stage;
 - F. whereas voluntary agreements between industry players, although significantly decreased the number of available charger types on the market, were unsuccessful in terms of achieving a common charging solution, and consumers are still confronted with different types of chargers across the market;
 - G. whereas around 50 million metric tons of e-waste is generated globally per year, with an average of more than 6 kg per person; whereas the total e-waste generation in Europe

in 2016 was 12.3 million metric tons, corresponding to 16.6 kg on average per inhabitant and this represents an unnecessary environmental footprint that can be reduced;¹

- H. Whereas the EP called within the framework of the European Green Deal for an ambitious new circular economy action plan aiming to reduce the total environmental and resource footprint of EU production and consumption with resource efficiency, zero pollution and waste prevention as key priorities;
- I. whereas consumer trends in the past 10 years show growing of multidevice ownership and short lifecycles of some radio equipment i.e. smartphones, older equipment is often replaced because it is seen as outdated, furthermore it leads to producing additional e-waste including chargers;
- J. whereas consumers own, use and often carry with them many different chargers for similar battery-operated devices; consequently the present oversupply of chargers causes excessive costs and inconvenience to consumers and an unnecessary environmental footprint;
- K. whereas nowadays people are depending on their mobile devices in numerous daily situations, especially in case of emergency and/or when travelling, also due to the lack of public telephones, and people need to rely on an easily and readily charged mobile phone in order to access quickly essential services and life utilities such as: paying tool, information search, navigation device., etc. and mobile devices are an essential tool for full participation in society;
- 1. Strongly stresses that there is an urgent need for EU regulatory action in order to reduce the amount of electronic waste, empower consumers to make sustainable choices and allow them to fully participate in an efficient and well-functioning internal market;
- 2. Calls on the Commission to present and publish without further delay the results of the impact assessment on the introduction of a common charger for mobile telephones and other compatible devices in view of proposing mandatory provisions;
- 3. Emphasises the need for a standard for a common charger for mobile radio equipment to be adopted as a matter of urgency in order to avoid further internal market fragmentation;
- 4. Calls therefore on the Commission to adopt the delegated act supplementing Directive 2014/53/EU on radio equipment defining a standard for a common charger for mobile phones and other small and medium-sized radio equipment by July 2020 or, if needed, a legislative measure by July 2020 at the latest, which would introduce the common charger without any further delay;
- 5. Points out that the Commission, without hampering innovation, should ensure that the legislative framework for one common charger will be regularly scrutinised in order to

¹ The Global E-waste Monitor 2017: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Climate-Change/Documents/GEM%202017/Global-E-waste%20Monitor%202017%20.pdf>

take into account technical progress; reiterates the importance of research and innovation in this domain to improve the existing and come up with new technologies;

6. Points out that the use of wireless charging technology entails additional potential benefits such as mitigating the e-waste; highlights that already many mobile telephones use wireless charging methods and that fragmentation in this area should be avoided; therefore calls on the Commission to take measures to best ensure the interoperability of different wireless chargers with different mobile radio equipment;
7. Reminds that in line with the standardisation regulation, European standardisation organisations shall facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders; in this context, relevant stakeholders include organisations of SMEs, environmental organisations, people with disabilities, elderly and consumers;
8. Believes that the Commission should consider legislative initiatives to increase the volume of cables and chargers collected and recycled in the Member States;
9. Urges the Commission to ensure that consumers are not any longer obliged to buy new chargers with each new device, thereby reducing the amount of chargers produced per year; Considers that decoupling strategies would allow greater environmental benefits; meanwhile stresses that any measure aiming at decoupling should avoid any potentially higher price to consumers; underlines furthermore that decoupling strategies should be introduced with a common charger solution otherwise it would not achieve the purpose of the Directive;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.