



Commission proposes a common charger for electronic devices

SEPTEMBER 2021

Why is a common charger needed?

After working with industry on a voluntary approach since 2009, which already brought down the number of mobile phone chargers from 30 to 3, the Commission is now putting forward a legislative approach to enable Europeans to power their devices with one common charger

USB-C will be the new standard charging port for all smartphones, tablets, cameras, headphones, portable speakers and handheld videogame consoles. In addition, the Commission proposes to unbundle the sale of chargers from the sale of electronic devices.

This increases consumer convenience and reduces e-waste – an important contribution to both the digital and green transformations.



CONSUMERS

€ 2.4 billion

Spent yearly by consumers on standalone chargers

38% of consumers

complain of problems due to non-compatible chargers

ENVIRONMENT

11 000 tonnes

of e-waste annually from disposed and unused chargers

only 2 out of 3 owned chargers

are used by consumers

A common charger will:

CONSUMERS

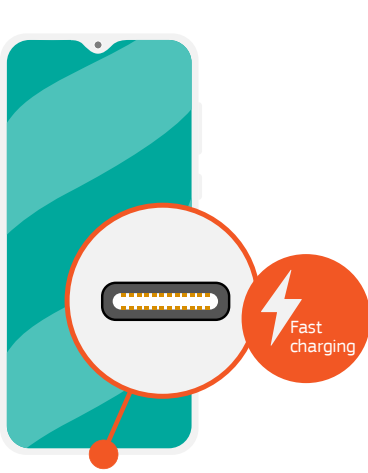
help consumers save **€250 million a year** on unnecessary charger purchases

ENVIRONMENT

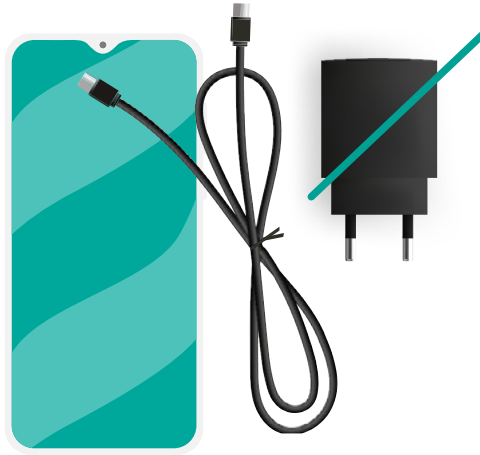
reduce e-waste by **almost a thousand tonnes** annually

What measures is the commission taking?

The key proposed new measures include:



Harmonising charging port and fast charging technology



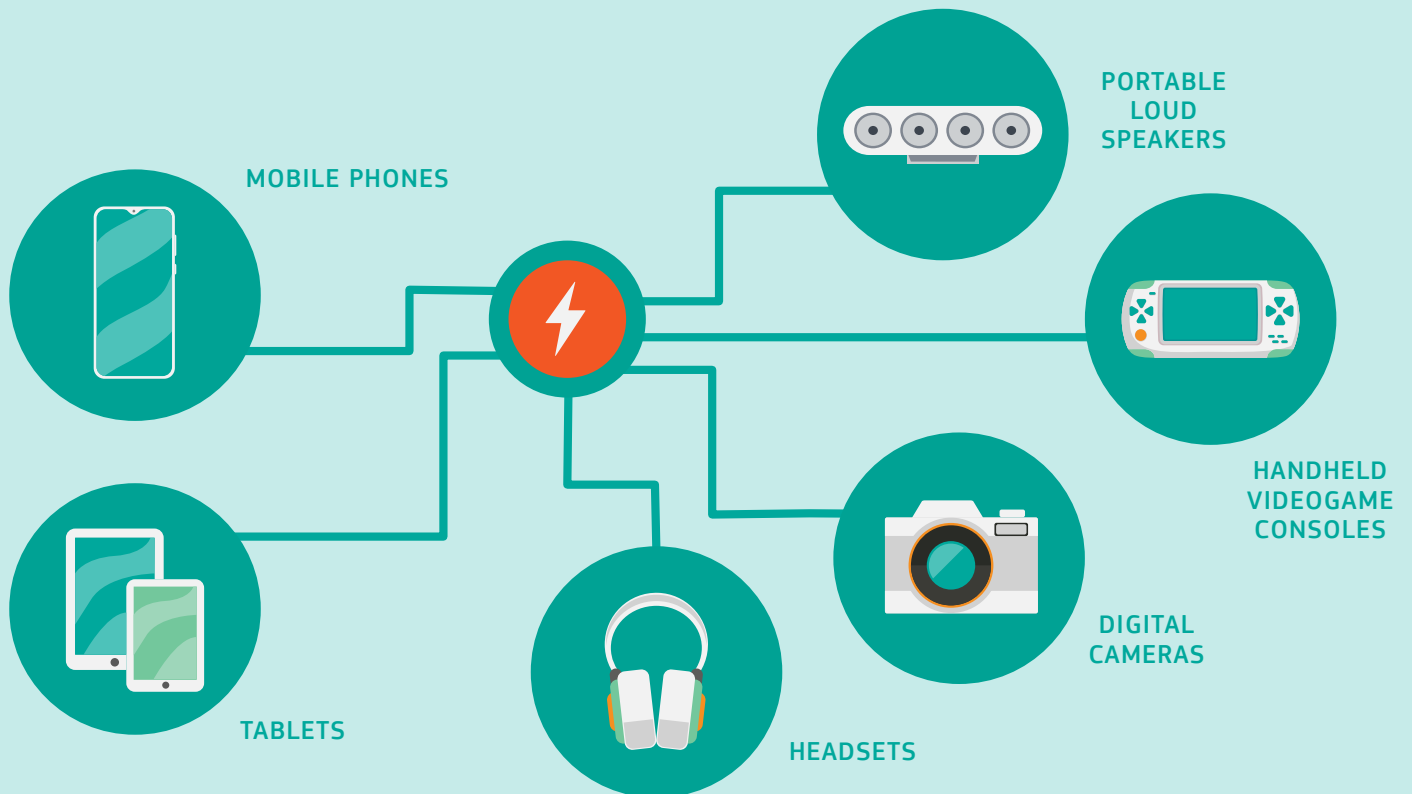
Unbundling the sale of the charger from the sale of the electronic device

EXAMPLE

Mobile phone model
-
The minimum power delivered by the charger shall be equal or higher than 25 watts
-
USB PD fast charging

Information about chargers

Types of electronic devices covered

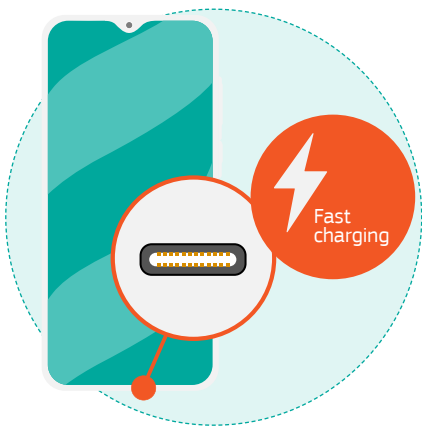


Making the common charger a reality

To ultimately have a common charger, full interoperability is required on both sides of the cable: the electronic device and the external power supply. The interoperability on the device end, which is by far the bigger challenge, is covered by today's proposal. The interoperability of the external power supply will be ensured by the revision of the Commission's Eco-Design Regulation in the near future, with a view to coming into force at the same time as today's proposal.

ACTION TO HARMONISE CHARGING PORTS ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Revision of the Radio Equipment Directive



AND

ACTION ON HARMONISING EXTERNAL POWER SUPPLY

Revision of the Commission implementing Regulation laying down the eco-design requirements of external power supplies (EPS)

