



## COMMON CHARGERS FOR MOBILE TELEPHONES AND OTHER COMPATIBLE DEVICES

### Current situation

The present plethora of chargers – both within brands and among brands - represents unnecessary costs to the consumer in their direct or implied purchase, and to the environment in the extraction of the raw materials for their construction and in their disposal.

### ANEC position

With the support of other consumer organisations, ANEC - the European consumer voice in standardisation - has been calling on the European Commission for over a decade to make common chargers mandatory for mobile phones and similar devices.

ANEC supports the regulatory option to make common charging solutions mandatory, whether pursuant to Article 3(3)(a) of the Radio Equipment Directive (2014/53/EU) and/or a different legal basis. The scope of the legislation should be mobile phones and similar devices, such as tablets, digital cameras, notebooks etc.



### Legislation needed

Only legislation can help consumers make the sustainable choices needed to benefit themselves and the environment.

Legislation can be supported by standards which would set the specific technical requirements for common charger's interoperability and safety.

ANEC does not support the use of adaptors or proprietary sockets, as they represent a barrier and cost to the consumers.



## NO to more voluntary approaches

ANEC does not support a further voluntary approach. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed between the European Commission and most mobile phone manufacturers in 2009, through which the manufacturers committed voluntarily to use one type of charged (Micro-USB connector technology) **was not a success** as it allowed the use of an adaptor.

Neither the consumer nor the environment gained from the MoU. Not only that but the MoU failed to address the problem of unsafe chargers on the market. RAPEX notifications from Member States show many chargers, especially cheap ones, to be unsafe.

It is now time for decision-makers to ensure one single charger for the EU Single Market!



## What are the benefits for the consumer?

The legislation to be adopted should allow the consumer to decide whether or not to buy a charger when buying a new device, and be informed of the charging performance and speed of the charger.

The legislation to be adopted should also foresee effective market surveillance and enforcement in order to remove dangerous products from the market. This would be possible through legislation under the New Legislative Framework.



## About ANEC

ANEC is the European consumer voice in standardisation, defending the collective consumer interests in the processes of technical standardisation, conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance as well as related legislation and public policies.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law and is open to the representation of national consumer organisations in 34 countries.

ANEC is funded by the European Union and EFTA, with national consumer organisations contributing in kind. Its Secretariat is based in Brussels.