

Impact Assessment Study to Assess Unbundling of Chargers - Stakeholder survey

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

This survey forms part of an **Impact Assessment Study on Unbundling of Chargers**, which is being carried out by a grouping of independent companies (including Ipsos, Trinomics and Economisti Associati) on behalf of the European Commission (DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs).

This study is intended to further strengthen the evidence base for the Commission's "**Common Charger**" **initiative**. Since its launch more than ten years ago, this initiative has aimed to reduce the level of fragmentation of charging solutions for mobile phones (and potentially other small electronic portable devices), in order to enhance consumer convenience and reduce unnecessary electronic waste. Most recently, a study carried out in 2019 (accessible [here](#)) identified and assessed a series of technical options to work towards a "common" charger and their likely social, environmental and economic impacts.

The current study builds on the results of the previous study. Its main focus is on the issue of unbundling (frequently also referred to as "decoupling"), i.e. **the selling of mobile phones (and/or other devices) without a charger**. A voluntary or regulatory initiative to facilitate unbundling, in order to reduce the electronic waste and other negative environmental impacts generated by the high number of chargers currently being produced, sold and discarded, could potentially form part of a future Commission proposal in the context of the "Common Chargers" initiative.

This survey is intended to provide relevant stakeholders and interested parties with an opportunity to express their views, preferences and experiences. Responses will be used exclusively for the purpose of informing the findings and conclusions of the study. Any personal data will be treated in accordance with [this](#) privacy statement.

For the purposes of this survey, please review the following definitions of **key terms** that are used throughout the questionnaire:

Mobile phone charger: A device used to charge the battery of a mobile phone, typically consisting of an external power supply (charging block) and a cable to connect the power supply to the mobile phone (also sometimes called cable assembly)



External power supply (EPS): Charging block used to convert alternating current (AC) power into lower voltage direct current (DC) or AC output to charge a mobile phone



Cable (or cable assembly): Detachable cable used to connect a mobile phone (or other device) to an external power supply



Interoperability: The ability of a system or product to work with other products or systems. A charger is considered interoperable with a device if it is able to charge its battery correctly



Profiling questions

* Please specify which type of organisation (if any) you represent:

- Private company
- Public authority
- Civil society organisation
- Private citizen

Prefer not to say

* What is the geographical scope of your authority?

- International
- European
- National
- Regional or local
- Prefer not to say

* Which of the following best describes your organisation?

- Consumer organisation
- Environmental organisation
- Industry association / organisation
- Other
- Prefer not to say

* Where are you / where is your organisation based / headquartered?

- In the EU
- Elsewhere in Europe (not a Member State of the EU)
- In North America
- In Asia
- In another part of the world
- Prefer not to say

Please provide the name of the organisation you represent

100 character(s) maximum

ANEC

Views on the common charger

The European Commission is considering adopting legislation to facilitate a “**common charger**” for all **mobile phones**. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
* All cable assemblies that are used for charging mobile phones should have the <u>same connector</u> (USB Type-C) at the device end	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* The EU should adopt <u>legislation</u> to ensure all cable assemblies have the same connector at the device end.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* All external power supplies (EPS) for mobile phones should be <u>interoperable</u> with all mobile phones, based on compliance with relevant USB (incl. USB Power Delivery) standards	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The EU should adopt <u>legislation</u> to ensure all EPS for mobile phones are interoperable with all mobile phones.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If legislation to facilitate a “common charger” is adopted, which **portable electronic devices** should this apply to?

	Common connectors at the device end	Common external power supply	Both common connectors and common EPS	Neither common connectors nor common EPS	Don't know
* Mobile phones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Laptops	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Tablets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* E-readers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Smartwatches and fitness trackers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Digital cameras	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Portable speakers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Wireless headphones / earpods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Radio-controlled toys	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Videogame devices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

You can use the text box below to briefly explain your views on the “common charger” initiative.

For some small devices (ie watches, ear buds) a common connector might be impractical due to their size but they should still be chargeable from a common power supply. Some laptops and radio controlled toys are likely to need more power.
Standardisation will enable better value and ease of use for consumers, less wastage and better re-use.

Views on decoupling

The European Commission is also considering a possible initiative to foster “**de-coupling**” or “**unbundling**”, so that mobile phones are no longer routinely sold with a charger in the box. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
* All mobile phones should be sold <u>with a complete charging solution</u> (EPS and cable) in the box	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* All mobile phones should be sold <u>with a cable, but no EPS in the box</u> . If needed, the EPS can be bought separately	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* All mobile phones should be sold with <u>neither an EPS nor a cable in the box</u> . If needed, these can be bought separately	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* All mobile phone manufacturers / distributors should <u>give customers the option</u> of purchasing (or not) a new EPS and/or cable with new phones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Each mobile phone manufacturer / distributor should be <u>free to choose</u> how they sell their phones and chargers (i.e. what to include in the box)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

A range of options to facilitate the decoupling of chargers from mobile phones could potentially be considered. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding such measures?

	Strongly Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
* The EU should work with the industry (mobile phone manufacturers and distributors) to explore how they could decouple <u>voluntarily</u>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The EU should adopt <u>legislation</u> to ensure mobile phones are no longer sold with a charging solution (EPS and/or cable) in the box	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* The EU should adopt <u>legislation</u> to ensure customers always have a <u>choice</u> of whether to purchase a charger (EPS and/or cable) with new mobile phones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* EU citizens should be provided with more information on the negative <u>environmental</u> impacts of unnecessary chargers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* EU citizens should be provided with more information on the fact that most modern chargers are <u>interoperable</u> . i.e. can be used to charge all mobile phones (as well as many other devices)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* A new <u>labelling</u> scheme should be created to help EU citizens understand which chargers can be used with which phones or other devices	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* <u>Incentives</u> for decoupling should be created (e.g. in the form of a better energy efficiency rating, or other advantages for phones sold without chargers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* To enable decoupling, there needs to be a <u>common connector</u> at the device end for all mobile phones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* To enable decoupling, there needs to be a <u>common EPS</u> that is interoperable with all mobile phones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If measures to foster the decoupling of chargers are adopted, should these also **apply to portable electronic devices** other than mobile phones? Please select all that apply.

	Yes, measures to foster decoupling should be adopted	No, measures to foster decoupling should not be adopted	Don't know
* Mobile phones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Laptops	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Tablets	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* E-readers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Smartwatches and fitness trackers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Digital cameras	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Portable speakers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Wireless headphones / earpods	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Radio-controlled toys	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Videogame devices	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you know of any **examples of relevant measures or schemes** that have been, or are expected to be, adopted in the EU, one of its Member States, or elsewhere in the world, and that may contribute directly or indirectly to decoupling of chargers or similar products? If so, please provide a brief summary, and if possible, a link to further information on such schemes.

2500 character(s) maximum

Integrated USB sockets are being installed in new buildings in the UK as standard. This is not a regulation but the response to demand. USB is as a result becoming the standard and there is an expectation that all rechargeable devices can be connected to what is effectively a common EPS.

Benefits and risks of decoupling

What **impacts** do you expect would follow from widespread decoupling of chargers from phones in the EU (i.e. a situation where most mobile phones are sold without a charger ‘in the box’)? Would you expect each of the following aspects to increase, decrease, or remain broadly unchanged?

	Major increase	Minor increase	No change	Minor decrease	Major decrease	Don't know
* Total number of new mobile phone chargers sold	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Greenhouse gas emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Consumer convenience	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Prices for consumers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Profits of mobile phone manufacturers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Profits of legitimate charger manufacturers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Profits of counterfeit charger manufacturers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Product safety risks for mobile phones and/or chargers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Conformity assessment, inspection and/or enforcement costs for public authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Innovation in charging technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Competitiveness of EU businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Competitiveness of EU SMEs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Survey close and wrap-up

You can use the text box below to briefly explain further why you are in favour or against a possible “decoupling” initiative, your preferred policy option(s), and/or the main benefits and/or risks you perceive.

2500 character(s) maximum

ANEC`s position:

- mandatory universal plug charger with detachable cable and USB Type C socket on plug charger for all mobile devices if technically possible.
- consumers to have choice to buy or not buy a new charger each time a new device is purchased (so-called decoupling or unbundling opt-in).
- recent mobile phones manufacturers decisions to sell phones without chargers strengthens the case for a mandatory common charger (even though there is going to be a legacy effect).

Many persons with disabilities struggle to identify or properly use the charger needed for their device. For example, persons with vision impairments may find it difficult to use a charger if a tactile mark is not present. Similarly, the lack of uniformity currently present (chargers in different shapes and sizes) makes usability from persons with intellectual disabilities difficult. For these issues to be resolved all devices should use the same charger outlet, and both sides should fit into the device/power supply. By adhering to a consistent design, the experience of persons with disabilities will greatly improve.

Effective standardisation of charging equipment for as many devices as possible, and a requirement for consumers to have the option to make an informed choice on whether to buy a new charging set with a new phone, would be beneficial to consumers and the environment.

Thank you for participating in this survey. Your responses will be treated with the strictest confidentiality. The study team may wish to contact you again to participate in further research related to this study.

* Do you agree to be re-contacted by Ipsos to participate in a follow-up telephone interview for this study? Your personal information will be securely deleted when this research is concluded (July 2021).

- Yes
 No

* Could you please provide your email address so that we can contact you again?

chiara.giovannini@anec.eu

If there is anyone else in your organisation or network that you think would have views or experiences relevant to this survey, it would be very much appreciated if you could send the survey link to them so they can complete it and give their feedback. You can do this by copying the survey link into an email or message to them.

Thank you for your support.

Contact

[Contact Form](#)

