

Deal on common charger: reducing hassle for consumers and curbing e-waste

- One single charger for frequently used small and medium-sized portable electronic devices
- Charging speed harmonised for devices that support fast charging
- Buyers can choose whether to purchase new device with or without charging device



From mobile phones to digital cameras, consumers will soon be able to use a single charger for all their portable electronics devices.

By autumn 2024, USB Type-C will become the common charging port for all mobile phones, tablets and cameras in the EU, Parliament and Council negotiators agreed today.

The provisional agreement on the [amended Radio Equipment Directive](#), establishes a single charging solution for certain electronic devices. This law is a part of a broader EU effort to make products in the EU more sustainable, to reduce electronic waste, and make consumers' lives easier.

Under the new rules, consumers will no longer need a different charging device and cable every time they purchase a new device, and can use one single charger for all of their small and medium-sized portable electronic devices. Mobile phones, tablets, e-readers, earbuds, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld videogame consoles and portable speakers that are rechargeable via a wired cable will have to be equipped with a USB Type-C port, regardless of their manufacturer. Laptops will also have to be adapted to the requirements by 40 months after the entry into force.

The charging speed is also harmonised for devices that support fast charging, allowing users to charge their devices at the same speed with any compatible charger.

Better information and choice for consumers

Consumers will be provided with clear information on the charging characteristics of new devices, making it easier for them to see whether their existing chargers are compatible. Buyers will also be able to choose whether they want to purchase new electronic equipment with or without a charging device.

These new obligations will lead to more re-use of chargers and will help consumers save up to [250 million euro a year](#) on unnecessary charger purchases. Disposed of and unused chargers are [estimated](#) to represent about 11,000 tonnes of e-waste annually.

Encouraging technological innovation

As wireless charging technology becomes more prevalent, the European Commission will be empowered to develop so-called delegated acts, on the interoperability of charging solutions.

Quote

Parliament's rapporteur [Alex Agius Saliba \(S&D, MT\)](#) said: "Today we have made the common charger a reality in Europe! European consumers were frustrated long with multiple chargers piling up with every new device. Now they will be able to use a single charger for all their portable electronics. We are proud that laptops, e-readers, earbuds, keyboards, computer mice, and portable navigation devices are also included in addition to smartphones, tablets, digital cameras, headphones and headsets, handheld videogame consoles and portable speakers. We have also added provisions on wireless charging being the next evolution in the charging technology and improved information and labelling for consumers".

Press conference

On Tuesday, 7 June, from 12.30 CEST, Parliament's rapporteur Alex Agius Saliba (S&D, MT) and Commissioner for the Internal Market Thierry Breton will give a joint press conference in the European Parliament's press conference room in Strasbourg.

More details on how to follow are available in this [media advisory](#).

Watch the recording of the press conference [here](#).

Next steps

After the summer recess, Parliament and Council will have to formally approve the agreement before it is published in the EU Official Journal. It will enter into force 20 days after publication and its provisions will start to apply after 24 months. The new rules would not apply to products placed on the market before the date of application.

Background

In the past decade, Parliament has been continuously [calling](#) on the Commission to table a proposal on a common charger solution. The [legislative proposal](#) was tabled on 23 September 2021.

Further information

[Consolidated text \(link added 12.07.2022\)](#)

[Procedure file](#)

[Press release after plenary vote \(04.05.2022\)](#)

[Press conference on the outcome of the trilogue agreement \(07.06.2022\)](#)

[European Parliament Research Service Briefing on a common charger for electronic devices](#)

[EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material](#)

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