



A common charger for electronic devices

JUNE 2022

Why is a common charger needed?

Since 2009, working with industry on a voluntary approach has already brought down the number of mobile chargers from 30 to 3. Following the Commission's legislative proposal, published in September 2021, an agreement has now been reached that will enable Europeans to power their devices with a single charger.

USB-C will be the new standard charging port for all new handheld mobile phones, tablets, digital cameras, handheld videogame consoles, headphones, headsets, portable speakers, e-readers, keyboards, mice, portable navigation systems, earbuds and laptops. In addition, chargers will be unbundled 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

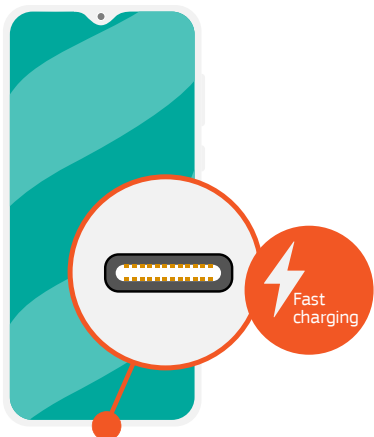
help consumers save
€250 million a year
on unnecessary charger purchases

ENVIRONMENT

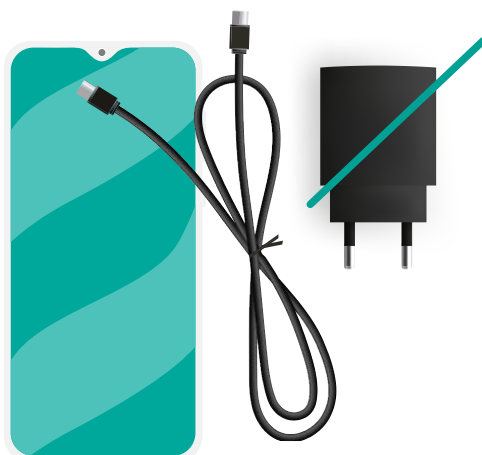
reduce e-waste by
almost a thousand tonnes
annually

What are the main new measures?

The new rules will ensure:



Harmonising charging port and fast charging technology



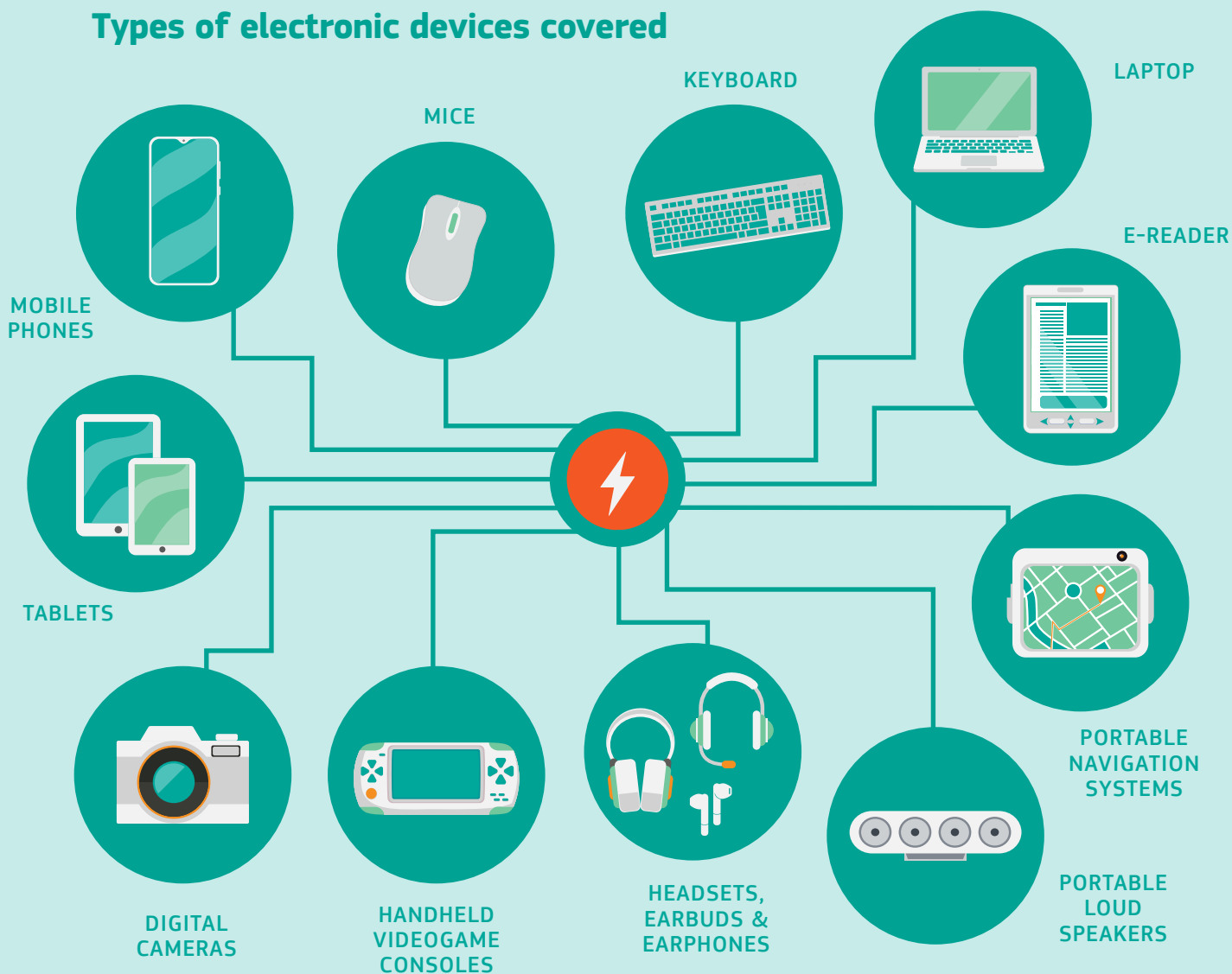
Unbundling the sale of the charger from the sale of the electronic device

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

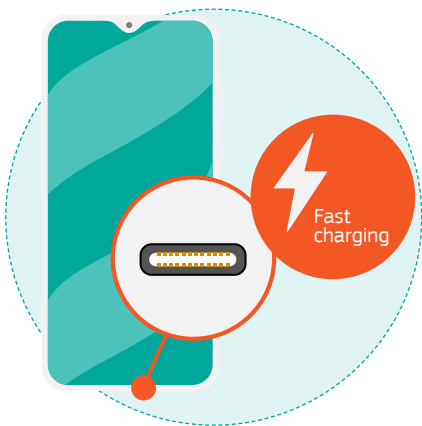


Making the common charger a reality

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 agreement. The interoperability of the external power supply will be ensured by the revision of the Commission's EcoDesign Regulation in the near future, with a view to coming into force at the same time as today's agreement.

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)

