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Dear Mrs Thun,

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2018 regarding the 'common charger for mobile radio equipment'.

I fully agree with you that the 'common charger' file is of strategic importance as a symbol of a European Union working to facilitate its citizens' lives.

As you recall in your letter, the European Commission has invested a lot of effort into this matter since 2009. Following expiration of the first Memorandum of Understanding, which proved effective in substantially reducing fragmentation of the market, the Commission encouraged the mobile phone industry to reach a new voluntary agreement. Regrettably, as you rightly point out, the new Memorandum of Understanding falls short of our expectations.

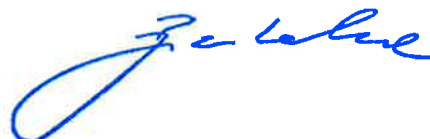
This is the reason why I am now determined to assess other options. In particular, I have asked my services to launch an impact assessment study in support of a possible regulatory option, notably under the Radio Equipment Directive. The objective of such regulatory option would be to enhance consumers' convenience and to reduce electronic waste, whilst at the same time allowing for future technological evolution. The scope would potentially be broader than smartphones and cover most of the medium-small electronic equipment, as suggested in your letter.



The evidence-based study will be kicked off before the end of 2018, paving the way to adopt a delegated act under the Radio Equipment Directive. Please note in this respect that according to Article 44 (2) of the Directive, the delegation of power is initially conferred on the Commission for a period of five years from 11 June 2014. However, it shall be tacitly extended, unless the European Parliament or the Council oppose such extension not later than three months before the end of each period.

We will keep you fully informed of the process on this file and count on your continuous support.

Yours faithfully,



Elzbieta Bieńkowska

Cc: Evelyne GEBHARDT, EP Vice President; Andreas SCHWAB, IMCO Coordinator; Nicola DANTI, IMCO Coordinator; Peter LIESE, ENVI Coordinator; Julia REDA, IMCO Coordinator; Anna Maria CORAZZA BILDT, IMCO Vice-Chair; Benedek JÁVOR, ENVI Vice-Chair; Pascal ARIMONT, REGI Vice-Chair; Lambert VAN NISTELROOIJ, REGI Coordinator; Marietje SCHAAKE, INTA Coordinator; Roberta METSOLA, LIBE Coordinator; Wim VAN DE CAMP, TRAN Coordinator; Sabine VERHEYEN, CULT Coordinator; Michal BONI, Carlos COELHO, Lara COMI, Herbert DORFMANN, Christophe HANSEN, Othmar KARAS, Eva MAYDELL, Angelika NIEBLER, Olga SEHNALOVÁ, Jiří POSPÍŠIL, Adam SZEJNFELD, Ivan ŠTEFANEC, Dariusz ROSATI, Paul RUBIG, Inese VAIDERE, Marc TARABELLA (Members of the European Parliament)