

Status of the EU Battery Charging Policy Discussions

NOKIA

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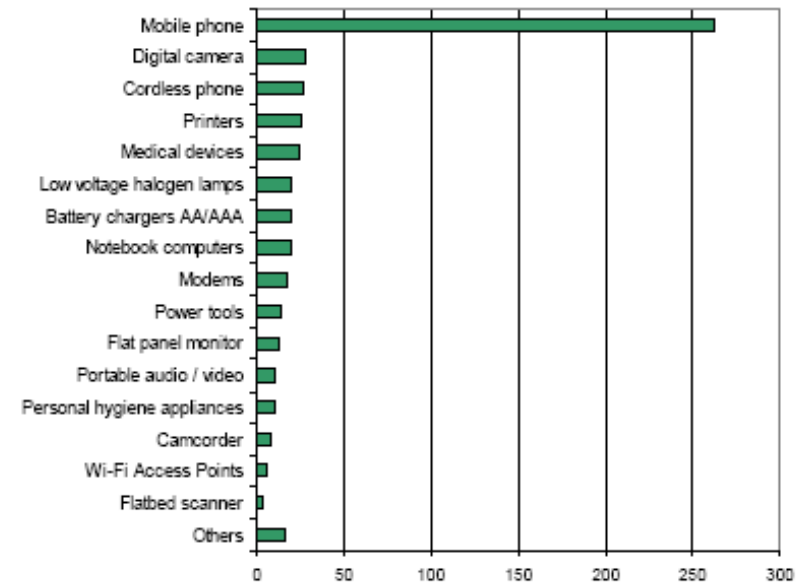
Background

- The European Commission has been active in the universal charger (EPS) discussion for some years, the impetus increased after the topic was raised in the European Parliament last November 2008.
- There are two drivers:
 - User convenience
 - Fewer chargers, one fits to several devices
 - Easy to change from one brand to another and still use the existing chargers
 - No need to buy new charger for every device
 - Less needs to dispose old chargers
 - More User friendly, easier to charge your phone
 - Environmental aspects
 - A lot of charger waste is produced as new chargers come with every device
 - Chargers currently represent approx 20% of waste to be disposed of from a mobile package
 - By some estimates 50,000 to 82,000 tonnes of replacement chargers are produced each year, 13.6 to 21.8 million tonnes CO2 each year in replacement chargers
 - Much of this is not recycled
 - Potential to sell devices only
 - Reduces costs and requires less packaging material
 - Logistic costs and environmental loading are reduced
- The recent emphasis in eth European discussions has been more on the user aspects

The EU-Market Status

- More than billion EPS/chargers sold globally each year (including all, not only phone).
- Europe's EPS/charger market presents almost a third of the global market with sales of 475 million units in 2005 *)
- Mobile phone EPS/chargers are by far the biggest market segment with more than 50% of the total market, no other segment is more than 10% → phone charger is the most important.
- Therefore the pressure from the Commission is especially on the phones.
- There are concerns that the same common charger policy may spread to other CE devices later

Figure 2-2 – Sales of EPS/BC in Europe, 2005



*) based on EuP EPS (LOT7) study

Status and Recent Developments

- The GSMA press release in Feb 2009 supported Micro-USB and was seen as a positive but inadequate step towards a universal charger.
 - GSMA: "2012 majority of the phones will have Micro-USB"
- Since December 2008 a dialogue between the executive of the European Parliament (Commissioner Verheugen's staff) and the industry represented by DigitalEurope (former EICTA) has been going on.
- The Commission has announced that if no agreement is reached, regulatory measures will follow.
 - This would be a long route.
 - R&TTE Directive as a possible legal instrument, but it is not clear how, the current Directive does not include any possibility to regulate this issue.
 - The Directive could be amended with a new Article 3.3
 - Directive is currently under review, but this will take some time likely measured in years.
- The Commission has encouraged the industry to continue to work with a MoU
 - Use it as a basis for regulation.
 - Withdraw the regulatory measures.
 - Current "deadline" is end of June.

Industry Views of the MoU

- There is no DIGITALEUROPE agreed position on “single charger”, but a position reflecting some manufacturers' views on this issue.
- Most manufacturers agreed on:
 - All data enabled products should support USB protocol and use Micro USB interface
 - Based on today's battery technology
 - EPS must comply to EMC & LVD for mobile phones
 - Additional charger solution is not excluded
 - New common available battery technology might replace Micro-USB charger interface
 - MoU might need to be revised due to new technology
 - Apply to new products supporting USB protocol released from mid 2010 (tbd) supporting Micro-USB
- Concerns:
 - USB 3.0 compatibility with Micro-USB (more pins)
 - Development time of silicon and devices
 - Market requirements will change over time
 - Battery and other technologies will develop and the MoU should be open for this
 - Time to develop standards
 - Legal issues and liability
 - Exit clause

Commission Comments

- Comments from the Commission:
 - The major target of the Commission remains ‘any charger will charge any phone and vice versa’
 - How quickly a charger can charge a phone?
 - The limitation to USB data-enabled devices only
 - Liability issues should be addressed through good standards
- Conclusion:
 - The Commission continues to encourage the industry to work on the MoU and come up with an agreed version by the end of June. The Commission will in parallel start preparing the legislative process.