

Right to Repair Directive

Context

The European Commission has issued a proposal for a [Right to Repair Directive](#) which aims to strengthen common European Union (EU) rules on the repair of goods while also encouraging repair ahead of the replacement.

The aim of the Right to Repair Directive is to reduce product waste, increase circularity by reducing the amount of repairable goods being discarded, and strengthen consumer protection. Eurobarometer data suggests that [77% of EU consumers would opt to repair their faulty products](#) but face obstacles due to repair costs and lack of services provided.



Obligations on Producers & Repairers

Member States will be obliged to abide by the requirements and provisions set out in this Directive and should not maintain or introduce national provisions which diverge from this Directive. To this end, any repair contracts which derogate from the requirements set out in this Directive to the detriment of consumers shall be considered invalid.

Prior to entering into a repair contract, repairers will be obliged to supply a *European Repair Information Form* upon the request of consumers. The form shall include information relating to the identity and contact details of the repair provider and information on the repair service

(duration, type of repair, etc.). The repair conditions specified in this form should not be changed for a 30-day period.

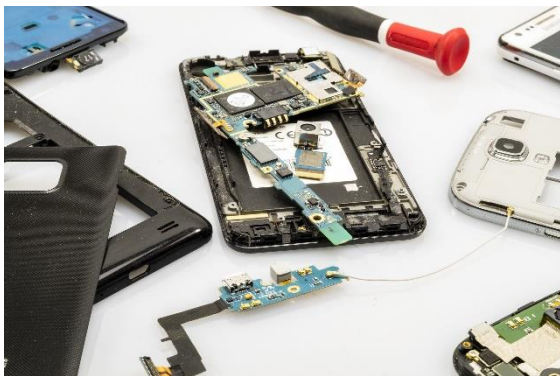
Repairer is defined by the Directive as a “natural or legal person who [...] provides a repair service, including producers and sellers that provide repair services.” This also includes repair service providers who are independent from producers and sellers.

Repairers may oblige consumers to cover the costs involved in supplying information contained within the Form. However, consumers should be made aware of these costs before the Form request is made.

When requested by consumers, producers will be obliged to repair (for free or at a cost) the following types of goods:

- Household washing machines and household washer-dryers
- Household dishwashers
- Refrigerating appliances (including those with a direct sales function)
- Electronic displays
- Welding equipment
- Vacuum cleaners
- Servers and data storage products
- Mobile phones, cordless phones and tablets

Nonetheless, producers will not be obliged to repair such goods when repair is impossible. It would also be possible for producers to sub-contract their repair service to fulfil obligations. In cases where the producer is set up outside the EU, these obligations shall be placed on the producer representative, importer, or distributor where applicable.



Producers shall also be obliged to ensure that independent repair service providers enjoy access to spare parts and repair-related information and tools to carry out such repairs.

Member states will set up at least one online platform which enables users to search for repair service providers, while facilitating information such as repair location, time limits, quality standards, and other aspects.

In cases where the cost of replacement is equal to or greater than the cost of repair of a particular good, sellers shall be obliged to repair that good.

Transitional Periods

The proposed Directive foresees a transitional period of 24 months from the entry into force of the Directive for its provisions to become binding on businesses.

The full text of the Commission proposal may be accessed [here](#).

For questions or more detailed information please contact Head of Brussels Operations & EU Affairs Manager Daniel Debono and Manager – EU Policy (Sustainability) Gabriel Cassar on infobrussels@mbb.org.mt

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