

# ESBA Policy Briefing

## EU Directive on Right to Repair



### SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

- **Legal Framework:** The Directive seeks to amend the legal guarantee framework under the Sale of Goods Directive, prioritizing repair as a remedy for non-conformity of goods whenever repair is cheaper or as costly as replacement.
- **Extended Measures:** Beyond the legal guarantee, the Directive introduces several measures to facilitate repair and reuse of goods, including:
  - Obliging producers to repair products under certain conditions, even outside the legal guarantee.
  - Establishing a European Repair Information Form and online platforms to match consumers with repairers.
  - Developing a voluntary European quality standard for repair services
- **Environmental and Economic Benefits:** These initiatives aim to increase product longevity, reduce waste, and promote sustainable business models. This will lead to savings for consumers and growth in the repair sector.

### USEFUL LINKS

- [European Commission Portal on Repair of Goods](#)
- [European Green Deal](#)
- [Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation: Ecodesign Overview.](#)

### INTRODUCTION

The European Commission adopted a proposal on common rules promoting the repair of goods on March 22, 2023, as part of its broader commitment to the green transition, notably under the European Green Deal and the New Circular Economy Action Plan. The Directive aligns with the EU's goal of transforming into a circular economy, emphasizing sustainable consumption and reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

The Directive is currently in the negotiation phase, being reviewed by the European Parliament and the Council. It is worth noting that related proposals, such as the Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and the Directive on Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition, are at a more advanced stage of negotiation.

### RELEVANCE FOR SMES

- **SMEs' Role in the Repair Sector:** The Directive potentially opens up new market opportunities for SMEs in the repair and refurbishment sectors.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** The Directive is a positive step but it lacks ambition in certain areas. For example:
  - Embedding repairability in product design.
  - Ensuring availability of spare parts at fair prices.
  - Considering digital transition developments, such as software repair rights and innovation opportunities.