

Question for written answer E-003725/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Kateřina Konečná (NI)

Subject: Standardisation of battery interfaces for power tools and garden equipment

Battery-powered hand tools and garden equipment are sold in the EU in dozens of mutually incompatible formats. Fully functioning battery packs containing critical raw materials end up as waste simply because the user switches to a machine from a different brand. This incompatibility also generates costs associated with changing suppliers, which puts smaller European manufacturers at a disadvantage.

Recital 37 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 classifies batteries for gardening and cordless power tools as portable batteries incorporated into appliances, and delegates the setting of specific requirements to implementing acts on ecodesign. The Ecodesign Working Plan 2025-2030 does not include either of these product groups.

1. The Commission was required to assess, by 1 January 2025, the introduction of harmonised standards for a common charger for rechargeable batteries incorporated into certain categories of appliances under Directive 2012/19/EU. Has this assessment already been completed and published, and does the Commission consider removable battery packs for power tools and garden equipment to come under this definition?
2. Why were these product groups not included among the priorities of the Ecodesign Working Plan 2025-2030, and on what data regarding the market share of interoperable products within the Union does the Commission base its view that voluntary industry initiatives are sufficient?
3. Is the Commission considering, pursuant to Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 1025/2012, calling on CEN and CENELEC to draw up a European standard for the interfaces of removable battery packs for these machines?

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