



RIGHT TO

REPAIR

Webinar Summary – The state of EU right to repair: missing pieces to a thriving repair economy in Europe

Brussels, November 2024

The [Right to Repair Europe](#) coalition represents over 170 organisations from 27 European countries. It represents environmental NGOs and repair actors such as community repair groups, social economy actors, spare parts distributors, self-repairers, repair and refurbishing businesses, and any citizen who would like to advocate for their right to repair. This is a rapidly growing movement, with the objective to make repair affordable, accessible and mainstream. Browse member organisations by country [here](#).



The global repair community celebrated **International Repair Day** on **Saturday 19th of October 2024**, with thousands of events taking place around the world. As Right to Repair Europe, we hosted a **webinar** on Tuesday 15th of October to discuss the **current state of right to repair in Europe**.

The webinar saw our **coalition members** and an audience of **over 200 right to repair supporters** engage in insightful discussions with representatives from the EU Commission. It was shown how despite progress under the previous EU mandate, a universal right to repair is still far from reality and policy action is key to achieve this.

Opening the webinar, we heard **EU Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders** stress the importance of expanding the scope of EU repair legislation and ensuring an effective national implementation. *“We need to work on expanding the list of products covered by the obligation to repair”,* said the Commissioner, who also highlighted the need to address imports of new cheap products: *“It’s important to address the second-hand market. There is currently unfair competition between certain products in the secondhand market and low-cost (new) products from abroad”*.

Ugo Vallauri from **The Restart Project** presented findings from the [latest report by Open Repair Alliance](#), which analysed data from community repair against what is currently covered by European repair legislation. *“Only 4% of the products seen at community repair events are currently covered by repair rules, while 96% are not”,* showing a clear need for further policy action.

Thomas Opsomer from **iFixit** highlighted the current policy gaps hindering a universal right to repair in Europe, as shown in our latest policy paper [Current State of EU Right to Repair](#). *“There is an issue of scope, but also of ambition”, especially regarding the issue of repair costs. “We don’t have a definition of what a reasonable price is so at this point as a consumer if you want to enact your right to repair you have to take a manufacturer to court. We ask for spare parts to be included in the repair score and for requirements for spare parts price stability”,* said Thomas on behalf of the Right to Repair Europe coalition.

Luisa Denter from **Germanwatch** presented the importance of reuse and repair for a resilient EU economy, to protect resources, boost EU circular businesses and create local jobs, in line with broader objectives of EU strategic autonomy. *“There’s at least three reasons why reuse and repair should be prioritised in the next Circular Economy Act. We need to protect resources, as demand will grow much more than supply, even if we include recycling. We can boost EU circular businesses of repair, refurbishment and remanufacturing, and we can create local jobs by prioritising these circular strategies which are more labour-intensive and less capital-intensive than recycling”.*

EU Commission officers Ada Preziosi (DG JUST) and Wojtek Sitarz (DG ENV) joined us to discuss the current state of affairs and policy needs going forward. Reacting to our coalition members’ presentations, the officers reaffirmed the centrality of repair as a waste prevention strategy for a circular economy in Europe, highlighting what was achieved during the previous mandate through ecodesign and repair legislation, but also what needs to be the focus of the next EU Commission from now on.

“One significant difference between the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and its predecessor, the Ecodesign Directive, is that requirements can now be adopted for several product groups at once, which we refer to as horizontal measures. A horizontal measure on product reparability, including a reparability scoring system, is being seriously considered for inclusion in the first ESPR Working Plan” (Wojtek Sitarz, DG ENV).

“Our immediate focus is on the transposition of the (Right to Repair) Directive. Member States have flexibility in transposing the Directive and can provide more clarity on what reasonable pricing means. They may establish criteria, but specific thresholds could be difficult. We acknowledge that the recital (of the R2R Directive) clarifying the concept of a reasonable price leaves some room for interpretation, but it does state that a reasonable price should not deter consumers from repairing.” (Ada Preziosi, DG JUST).

Following these discussions, we were delighted to see so much involvement and participation from the audience in the **Q&A with our guests**, moderated by **Cristina**

Ganapini from **Right to Repair Europe** expanding on topics such as spare parts pricing, the product scope of the R2R Directive, and the ban on destruction of unsold goods under ESPR.

Asked about repairability scoring, Wojtek Sitarz confirmed that “*spare part price acts as a deciding issue as to whether a consumer decides to repair or replace a product*” and that up to now “*the spare part price parameter was considered too volatile*” to be included as a criterion. “*For the products that are currently in the process of being regulated and for a hypothetical horizontal measure on repairability, should there be some new methodological elements that would allow us to tackle this volatility aspect, of course, this could then potentially allow for the inclusion of spare part prices*”, said Sitarz.

We wish to warmly thank all our speakers and participants.

To go deeper into the discussed topics please consult:

- The [slides](#) used by the speakers
- Our latest policy paper “[Current state of EU right to repair](#)”
- The Open Repair Alliance report “[The rise of community repair: the people and the data building a movement](#)”
- The [Webinar recording](#) on YouTube.