

CURRENT STATE OF EU ~~RIGHT~~ FIGHT TO REPAIR



**RIGHT TO
REPAIR**

The Right to Repair Europe coalition represents over 180 organisations from 29 European countries. We are 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 wants to advocate for their right to repair. More on repair.eu!

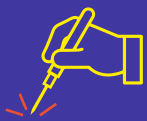


Scan to read our full policy paper!

Our coalition has fought hard for and seen the adoption of several EU laws relevant to the right to repair in the last five years. These include Common Rules promoting the Repair of Goods (Right to Repair Directive), the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR), the Smartphones and Tablets Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Regulations, and the Batteries Regulation.

Does this mean the right to repair is a reality in the EU? **Not quite...**

What's covered? What's missing?



We have Ecodesign Regulations that make our products more repairable through the availability of spare parts and repair information, and designs that can be disassembled...

But they only apply to the small number of products that are already covered by repairability requirements in product-specific Ecodesign Regulations. All other products are unregulated and potentially unrepairable.



Thanks to Ecodesign Regulations, certain spare parts are available to end-users...

But they represent a minority of spare parts. The majority are only available to professional repairers, who must go through a lengthy administrative process to gain access—if the parts are available at all (not all are).



As Member States implement the Right to Repair Directive, anti-repair practices such as part-pairing and software blocks will be banned for products covered by ecodesign requirements...

But such practices are still allowed if “justified by legitimate and objective factors”. This leaves a significant loophole open for manufacturers to prevent repair by third parties.



Through the Right to Repair Directive, manufacturers will be required to repair and provide information about repair, even outside of the guarantee period...

But only for those few products already covered by repairability requirements under Ecodesign Regulations. Plus, during the guarantee period, it is still possible for manufacturers to replace the product if this is cheaper.



The Right to Repair Directive mandates that consumers are given access to information on the price of spare parts, and that spare parts are provided at a reasonable price...

But the declared price will only be indicative and potentially overshoot by manufacturers. The concept of a reasonable price is not defined at EU level, leaving the responsibility to Member States or case law.



Thanks to the Ecodesign Regulation for Smartphones and Tablets, a repair score will be visible at the point of purchase. This will allow consumers to choose the most repairable ones on the market. Repair scores for other product categories are under development...

But all these repair scores don't include the price of spare parts as a parameter, making them significantly less relevant than, for example, the French repair index, which includes the price of spare parts in its scoring system.



How to achieve a universal Right to Repair



Horizontal repairability requirements that apply directly to a wide scope of products.

These are needed in the ESPR working plan and delegated regulations.

A high level of ambition.

Everyone should have access to spare parts and repair information for all products and for their entire lifetime, within a reasonable delivery period.

Sufficient human and financial resources.

The EU must provide more resources dedicated to ESPR implementation and adoption of delegated acts, to avoid delays.

A wide scope in the EU Right to Repair Directive without anti-repair loopholes.

The Right to Repair Directive could be much broader and stronger, covering more products and preventing anti-repair practices.

A reasonable price for spare parts that is defined through clear criteria or guidelines.

Research shows that consumers are not willing to pay over 30% of the price of a new product for a repair. At the very least, the information on the pre-tax price of spare parts that manufacturers are required to share with consumers should not simply be indicative; it should oblige manufacturers to not overshoot this price.

Consider the repair and refurbishment sectors as key European industries.

This requires political and economic support, as well as fair competition with manufacturers and within the repair market.

Strict rules and checks on new products imported and sold through online marketplaces.

Such products are often non-compliant with EU product policies and requirements, posing risks of unfair competition with more sustainable options, second-hand, and refurbished products. The EU must strengthen such rules and increase market surveillance, to ensure fair competition.

Ensure a vision that is coherent with the waste hierarchy.

The new EU Circular Economy Act must promote waste prevention over waste management. For example, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes need to be reshaped to support waste prevention via reuse and repair (through revisions of the Waste Framework Directive and the WEEE Directive).

A scoring system on repairability that includes the price of spare parts.

In the EU, this could be part of the energy label for all energy-related products.

Financial measures at national level that promote repair.

Examples of such financial measures already in place are repair subsidies in Germany, Austria, and France, the latter financed through EPR fees, and fiscal reductions on repairs – e.g. in Sweden. The EU should require this of its Member States.

A ban on the destruction of unsold electronics.

This would prevent the harmful business practice of destroying unsold or returned goods, which has direct negative environmental impacts. It would also help to tackle electronic waste, the fastest-growing waste stream globally.

READ MORE ON [REPAIR.EU/WHATS-MY-RIGHT-TO-REPAIR/](https://repair.eu/whats-my-right-to-repair/) AND JOIN US!