



**mouvement
écologique**

Strengthening the right to repair – a key lever for a more sustainable economy

Position on draft law 8762 amending the Consumer Code (Code de la consommation) and promoting the repair of equipment

The right to repair is a fundamental principle for countering the ‘throwaway’ culture and planned obsolescence. It prevents people from having to buy new items every time a minor fault or defect occurs, and helps enhance the repair trades and develop a more sustainable economy.

The draft law submitted to the Chamber of Deputies on 8 June—just over two months before the entry-into-force date set by the European Commission, 31 July 2026—is, overall, a faithful transposition of Directive 2024/1799.

Although this transposition comes very late and contains very few changes compared with the Directive itself, it aims to provide stronger structural support for the repair of consumer goods.

This text represents an important step forward for the right to repair. It strengthens certain consumer rights and introduces measures intended to make repair more accessible.

Particularly positive is the future obligation on manufacturers not to obstruct the reparability of equipment by technical or IT-related means. This very welcome provision will have to prove its worth in practice: manufacturers can make repairs more difficult through their choice of fastening systems, the arrangement or design of components, or the use of highly specialised screw types.

However, this point is defined rather vaguely in both the Directive and the draft law. The text states: ‘Unless justified by legitimate and objective factors, the manufacturer shall not use (a) a contractual clause or (b) hardware or software techniques that impede the repair of goods.’ It will therefore be necessary to monitor closely how manufacturers actually implement this obligation.

These provisions would nevertheless be ineffective unless the conditions that make repair more attractive (time limits, prices, etc.) were ensured at the same time.

Extending the period for identifying defects and the legal guarantee period strengthens consumer rights and brings Luxembourg into line with neighbouring countries, which already had longer guarantee periods. By aligning Luxembourg with Belgium and France, the Ministry aims to avoid putting local businesses at a disadvantage and making them less attractive to consumers than businesses elsewhere in the Greater Region.

The Mouvement Ecologique considers that these various measures should be implemented as quickly as possible, particularly in combination with a repair incentive scheme.

This draft law genuinely strengthens consumers' repair options. However, repair culture still needs to develop further in Luxembourg, and the very welcome momentum emerging in the 50 municipalities that have introduced a municipal repair bonus ('Reparaturbonus') should be reinforced. See the relevant overview at www.oekotopen.lu, as well as initiatives around 'Repair Cafés'.

Concrete measures are needed to remove existing barriers, support this emerging momentum and promote repair more strongly. In this context, the Mouvement Ecologique puts forward the following proposals in relation to this draft law:

1. Luxembourg must continue to push for improvements to the Directive

Like other stakeholders at European level, the Mouvement Ecologique welcomes the substance of the Directive.

However, it has obvious shortcomings that should be addressed:

- One shortcoming is undoubtedly the way online marketplace platforms based outside the European Union (e.g. Temu) are dealt with. Increasing numbers of products are sold on these platforms at often ridiculously low prices and are of poor quality, meeting few environmental criteria. Nevertheless, they attract a large number of consumers. Under the Directive, importers must appoint an authorised representative within the European Union. However, the text specifies neither the qualifications nor the criteria for these representatives, which risks limiting their practical usefulness.

The explanatory comments on the articles of this draft law do refer to this problem and acknowledge that the European Directive imposes no requirements on the authorised representative regarding quality, registration or transparency.

The right to repair therefore risks remaining theoretical for products sold through platforms operated by entities based outside the EU.

The Luxembourg government should advocate a revision of the Directive at European level on this point, requiring the appointment of a local authorised representative capable of fulfilling the same obligations as European manufacturers.

- The Directive currently focuses mainly on large household appliances and communication devices. It is essential that the Luxembourg government push for the rules to be extended to further product categories, especially small household appliances, which can often be repaired relatively easily.

2. Recognise volunteer repairers and give them access to repair information and spare parts

A culture of repair must not rely exclusively on professional services. Non-professional approaches—‘Repair Cafés’, participatory workshops and mutual-aid initiatives—can play an important complementary role, both in carrying out repairs and in sharing skills and raising awareness locally.

These civil-society-led approaches and initiatives therefore deserve support. Analyses in several countries also show that such initiatives do not compete with the professional sector; quite the opposite.

On the one hand, the professional sector cannot meet all existing demand; on the other, these initiatives promote repair as a principle, which also benefits the economy concerned.

Cooperation with repair businesses can also be an effective way to raise awareness and share know-how. Advice on proper care that extends product lifespans is another type of information these stakeholders can pass on to their ‘customers’.

The Mouvement Ecologique identifies, among others, the following ways to make implementation of the draft law more effective:

- Large numbers of damaged electrical appliances are brought to resource centres (centres de ressources). Some could still be repaired, while others could provide spare parts for repairs. If consumers do not indicate that these appliances are intended for reuse, they are treated as waste and can no longer be reused. This should be addressed at several levels:
 - Resource centres should be able to play a greater role in classifying items as ‘waste’ or ‘reusable’.
 - Cooperation with social-sector organisations should be encouraged in this context.

- It would also be useful to establish links with volunteer repairers so that spare parts can be recovered from damaged, irreparable appliances before they are classified as waste. The legal and insurance conditions for such use still need to be clarified.
- Links between ‘Repair Cafés’ and professional repairers and tradespeople must be strengthened.
- In Germany, these initiatives were recently recognised as part of the transposition of the European Directive. This gives them access to spare parts and repair information that would otherwise be unavailable to them—an aspect that, according to a study by the ‘Runder Tisch Reparatur’, could even improve repair quality. Luxembourg should examine how ‘Repair Cafés’ could be allowed access to this information and to spare parts, and should already provide for such a possibility in the draft law.
- As part of the awareness campaigns envisaged by this law, resource centres and ‘Repair Cafés’ should be more closely involved in informing consumers. Because they are rooted in local communities, they can act as local multipliers.

3. Invest in preserving and developing know-how

The newly established right to repair can only be effective if repair services are able to meet the resulting demand. However, the sector faces a succession problem: the repair profession must be made more attractive, vocational training and continuing education must be supported, and local specialists must be given conditions that allow them to develop rather than disappear because there are no successors or qualified workers.

It is essential to develop repair know-how, build skills for working with devices whose complexity is increasing through the integration of software and IT components, and promote the manufacture of spare parts using 3D printing, to name just a few examples.

- With this in mind, ways of strengthening repair training should be explored in both school-based vocational programmes and adult continuing education. This could include dedicated repair modules within electrician training, for example. Examples already exist, such as bicycle-repair courses at technical secondary schools (lycées techniques).

4. Examine repair incentives now and introduce a national repair bonus

Article 13 of the Directive requires Member States to adopt at least one measure to promote repair and notify the Commission of it by 31 July 2029 at the latest.

The correspondence table accompanying the draft law confirms that Luxembourg intends to meet this deadline. In particular, a repair bonus should be introduced as a complementary measure as soon as possible. Such a bonus lowers the financial barrier

for consumers and makes it easier to choose environmentally friendly repair instead of buying new. At the same time, it can increase demand for repair services, supporting independent repair businesses and local value creation.

There are several examples among our European neighbours. Austria and France have introduced repair bonuses at national level; France has even opted for a system funded by manufacturers through an eco-organisation (éco-organisme) under their extended responsibility. Under extended producer responsibility, manufacturers finance a repair fund from which consumers receive an immediate discount for repairs carried out by approved repair businesses.

In Germany, too, 17 organisations are calling for a manufacturer-funded repair bonus for electrical appliances.

The current coexistence of municipal bonuses, welcome as these schemes are, has its limits. They create a significant administrative burden for municipalities, which do not all have the same resources to manage it, and support varies depending on where people live—some municipalities offer no assistance at all.

- The Mouvement Ecologique therefore supports introducing a national repair bonus. The Ministry for Consumer Protection, possibly in cooperation with the Ministries of the Economy and the Environment, should analyse how a manufacturer-funded repair bonus could be implemented in Luxembourg. The aim is to guarantee equal access for all residents and relieve municipalities of this administrative burden. Economic operators would also have a clear message to communicate to consumers, whereas they currently need to know the consumer's place of residence and the specific support offered by each municipality. The scheme could build on experience already gained at municipal level to fine-tune its arrangements.

Our organisation urges the government not to treat the 2029 deadline set by the Directive as a date before which nothing need be done, but as an opportunity to introduce early a measure whose benefits have already been largely demonstrated in practice.

5. Extend the super-reduced VAT rate to product repairs

In addition to a repair bonus, the Mouvement Ecologique also advocates applying the super-reduced VAT rate of 3% to repair services for certain product categories, including household appliances. This reduction would provide another incentive to make repair more attractive than buying new. The government should examine the possibilities for this adjustment and advocate at European level for extending the super-reduced rate without reopening debate on the entire VAT-rate structure.

6. Clarify provisions through interpretative guidance to facilitate the implementation of often vague rules

The draft law is accompanied by a series of comments that provide clarifications or important context to help explain its provisions.

These comments help make rather vague or ambiguous wording more concrete, including the concepts of an ‘appropriate’ repair period and an ‘appropriate’ repair price. The article-by-article comments attempt to define these concepts by referring, for example, to proportionality in relation to the value of the goods, the average market price, the distinction between spare-part, labour and ancillary costs, and the requirement that the price should not deter consumers from repairing. However, these criteria remain qualitative and are left to case-by-case assessment. Citing French legal scholarship, the comments themselves state that the interaction between free-of-charge service and a reasonable price ‘serves as an aid to interpretation for national judges’. This effectively acknowledges that clarification of the rules is currently being left to the courts.

However, an ILRES survey in the past showed that consumers were deterred from repairing above all by the price and by fears that spare parts might not remain available in the long term.

For consumers, the draft law’s rather vague provisions make it difficult to anticipate repair costs and to challenge a price they consider excessive on a sound basis. For specialist businesses, they create legal uncertainty about whether their pricing complies with the rules, with the risk that, in the absence of common benchmarks, prices will vary in ways that consumers find difficult to justify.

In its opinion, the Union Luxembourgeoise des Consommateurs proposed accompanying the law with interpretative guidance. Prepared by the authority responsible for consumer protection in consultation with stakeholders (professional chambers and consumer organisations), such a document could explain the legislator’s intentions in practical, concrete terms and propose benchmarks—for example, an indicative ratio between the repair price and the price of an equivalent new product, following the approach of the French reparability index. The guidance need not be legally binding to fulfil its purpose: it need only guide practice and reduce the number of situations requiring a court ruling.

Such a document would also make it possible, through updates, to reflect changes resulting from the addition of new product categories. The current framework provides for ‘automatic transposition’ by referring to the Directive’s annexes.

7. Establish monitoring and evaluation in the law to enable adjustments

Given the novelty of this approach and the continuing uncertainty around reasonable prices, implementation should be accompanied from the outset by a monitoring and evaluation mechanism provided for in the law. This guidance is crucial to ensuring that the law is implemented effectively, and preparing it should not pose difficulties (it should be recalled that the law should already have been transposed in July this year).

This would involve regularly collecting, in cooperation with the Luxembourg Institute of Standardisation, Accreditation, Safety and Quality of Products and Services (ILNAS), data on the prices actually charged for repairs and spare parts covered by the law, as well as on consumer behaviour in response to those prices—whether repairs are actually commissioned, reasons for deciding against repair, and possible differences between regions or product categories. Such monitoring is useful in two ways: in the short term, it makes it possible to check whether the concept of a reasonable price is providing the incentive effect intended by the Directive; in the medium term, it provides a sound evidence base for considering legislative or regulatory revision or clarification of the concept, rather than having to rely on scattered court decisions issued after the fact.

- We therefore recommend that the law, or at least the preparatory work accompanying its adoption, explicitly provide for the establishment of both mechanisms rather than leaving their possible creation to a future and uncertain initiative.

8. Sustainably strengthen awareness among consumers and repair-sector stakeholders

The change in habits sought by the Directive—repair instead of systematic replacement—cannot be achieved through legislation alone. It requires sustained, long-term awareness-raising.

- The Mouvement Ecologique welcomes the awareness-raising initiative planned for this autumn, but it must not be the end of the process. To achieve a lasting effect on consumer habits, it should form part of a repeated and continuous effort, supported by regular communication and, above all, by concrete measures that make repair noticeably more accessible—first and foremost, the national repair bonus mentioned above.

A key aspect of awareness-raising is helping consumers correctly understand the information provided on product labels.

Since 2025, the European energy label for smartphones and tablets (Ecodesign Regulation (EU) 2023/1670) has provided information not only on energy efficiency but

also on repairability class (A to E), battery life, resistance to accidental drops and ingress protection, enabling consumers to favour more durable products. The EU plans to extend these new indicators gradually to other product categories. This information is often lost among the large amount of information consumers face. An awareness campaign should therefore draw attention to these elements and help consumers understand them correctly.

- To this end, the Mouvement Ecologique calls on the government to incorporate this information into its awareness campaign and to rely on the 'Oekotopten.lu' portal to guide consumers.

Conclusion

This draft law faithfully transposes the Directive and does so robustly in some respects. However, a legal framework alone is not enough to change consumer habits: its effectiveness will depend on the accompanying instruments, which are still largely absent from the text.

The Mouvement Ecologique therefore urges the government not to limit itself to the compliance exercise imposed by the European Commission, but to anticipate now the measures that would turn this text into an instrument for real change: introducing a national repair bonus without waiting until the 2029 deadline, supporting citizen-led initiatives, and recognising the expertise of local repairers. Continued investment in awareness-raising and publication of interpretative guidance would be useful additions to help stakeholders comply with the legal framework. It is equally essential to enshrine monitoring and evaluation of the impact in the law. Only under these conditions can the right to repair become firmly established in consumers' everyday lives.

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