

Question for written answer E-015438/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Andrejs Mamikins (S&D)

Subject: Abolition of roaming charges in the EU

Following an agreement between the Commission, the Council and Parliament on the matter of ending roaming charges within the EU, the respective implementation deadline has been moved from December 2015 to June 2017.

As a result of this action, prices during travel within the EU and while at home in the Member State of residence will be the same. Roaming prices per minute for phone calls, per each SMS sent and for each MB of data traffic will all be the same as domestic prices.

1. Given that there are service providers specialising in offering cheap international calls, what is the Commission's view on their potential decline? Or does it envision their full reorientation towards calls directed outside the EU?
2. Are there any plans to gradually integrate 'over the top' communications providers into the planned system (e.g. Skype in the case of calls to landlines and mobiles) or to make them contribute towards telecommunications infrastructure maintenance, or both?
3. Does the Commission plan to promote, in the medium to long term, abolition of roaming charges with states with which the EU has Free Trade Agreements, thereby promoting an even higher degree of economic cooperation?