Mobile roaming charges: The EU must take the right decisions now!
Press Release

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A Common statement of INTUG and Europeans for Fair Roaming

Over the last days, the new proposed EU mobile roaming regulation has come up on the agenda of the European Parliament and the Council. While many of the proposed amendments to the regulation are going in the right direction, the price caps are still much too high and the EU is risking to destroy the business of small operators that wish to enter the roaming market and make attractive offers for roaming.

The International Telecommunications User Group INTUG and the network Europeans for Fair Roaming (FairRoaming.org) therefore demand that the European Parliament and the Council must now take the right decisions. The retail price caps for mobile phone users must be set at lower levels than what is currently proposed:

- No more than 11ct for calls made by 2014
- Free receiving of calls from 2014 on
- No more than 10ct/MB for data by 2014

Furthermore, INTUG and FairRoaming.org warn against putting up high hurdles for market entrance and access to roaming services for small and virtual operators. Bengt Beier of Europeans for Fair Roaming stated: “If the new rules make it too hard for new and small operators to offer innovative roaming services, there will be no competition and roaming will remain as expensive as it is. And even worse, the existence of small operators and thousands of jobs could be threatened! The end users want lower prices for roaming and the new regulation has to deliver those.”

Nick White of INTUG stated, “These are extremely important issues for business users. If the regulation fails to introduce lower price caps, new low-cost roaming services and the freedom of users to choose their roaming operators, European businesses will continue to be seriously hindered in their ability to introduce innovative and more efficient cross-border processes. The absence of an international market for mobile services with the obstruction of MVNOs, can only be overcome by some form of structural change in the mobile market. The current situation with unjustifiably high roaming charges, especially for data, is damaging Europe’s competitive position and blocking investment in growth generating and job creating activities.”

The International Telecommunications User Group INTUG (www.intug.org) is an international association of business users of telecommunications, bringing together national and multinational user associations throughout the world. With members and contacts in all five continents INTUG has a global presence and represents thousands of small, medium and large enterprises. In recent years, INTUG has lobbied successfully for tariff reductions, for example for international leased lines and mobile roaming charges.

“Europeans for Fair Roaming” (www.fairroaming.org) was started by citizens from all over Europe as a Facebook campaign as has since expanded to become a network bringing together 14 organisations with tens of thousands of members, thousands of citizens and 11 MEPs from across Europe. The network calls on all EU institutions to take steps to end the current unfair practice of mobile phone operators charging high roaming fees when you use your mobile phone in another EU state. Europeans for Fair Roaming is one of the leading stakeholders in the roaming debate and has been mentionen in the NY Times, TheParliament.com, EurActiv and other media.

If you have any further questions, you may contact us at mail@intug.org and roaming@europeunited.eu.

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