



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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10492/07 (Presse 136)

## **The Council approves rules on roaming charges**

Approving the result of the opinion at first reading of the European Parliament adopted on 23 May 2007, the Council reached political agreement on a proposal for a Regulation on roaming on public mobile networks within the Community and amending Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (10094/07).

Following final verification by the legal / linguistic experts, the Regulation is due to be adopted on 25 June 2007 and published in the Official Journal of the EU before the end of June. It will enter into force one day after its publication.

The Commission adopted its proposal in July 2006 (11724/06 +ADD1 +ADD2).

The objective of the Regulation is to ensure that users of public mobile telephone networks travelling within the Community do not pay excessive prices for roaming services when making and receiving calls. The Regulation lays down rules on the charges that may be levied by mobile operators for the provision of roaming services for voice calls originating and terminating within the Community.

# **P R E S S**

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## **Tariffs**

The Regulation provides for imposing the regulatory obligations at both retail and wholesale level. It sets an EU-wide maximum average per-minute wholesale charge not exceeding EUR 0.30. This charge will decrease to EUR 0.28 and EUR 0.26 after one year and two years respectively.

The regulation introduces a Eurotariff at retail level (excluding VAT) not exceeding EUR 0.49 per minute for any call made and EUR 0.24 per minute for any call received for the first year. The price ceiling for calls made will automatically be reduced to EUR 0.46 and EUR 0.43, and for calls received to EUR 0.22 and EUR 0.19, in the second and third year respectively.

## **Tariff opting system**

All existing roaming customers will be given the opportunity, within one month following the entry into force of this Regulation, to opt deliberately for a Eurotariff or any other roaming tariff and must inform their home provider of their choice within a period of two months. The requested tariff will be activated no later than one month after receipt of the customer's request by the home provider. Roaming customers who do not make their choice within that period will be automatically provided with a Eurotariff.

However, roaming customers who already benefit from a specific roaming tariff or package before the entry into force of this Regulation and who do not indicate a new choice will remain on their previously chosen tariff, but they will be able to opt-in at any time.

## **Transparency**

The Regulation lays down rules aimed at increasing price transparency and improving the provision of information on charges to users of Community-wide roaming services.

Each service provider will by means of a message service provide its roaming customers automatically and free of charge, whenever they enter another Member State, with personalised information on the roaming charges (including VAT) that apply to the making and receipt of calls.

In addition, the customer has the right to request free of charge additional pricing information on the roaming charges of voice calls, SMS, MMS and other data communication services and will receive this information by means of a mobile voice call or by SMS.

### **Timing of application**

Providers of international roaming services will have two months to implement provisions related to wholesale roaming tariffs and three months to implement provisions related to the transparency obligations at retail level.

### **Review procedure and duration**

The Commission will review the functioning of the Regulation and report to the EP and the Council no later than 18 months after its entry into force.

The duration of the Regulation is limited to three years unless, on the basis of a Commission proposal, the Council and the Parliament decide to extend its duration and/or its scope.

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