

End of roaming: final hurdle cleared

Plenary sessions [06-04-2017 - 12:25]

MEPs removed the last hurdle on the way to full abolition of retail “roaming” surcharges in a vote on Thursday.

The abolition of retail roaming surcharges, now scheduled for 15 June 2017, will enable consumers to call text and use mobile data for the same cost at home and while travelling in another EU country. and transfer data across borders from another EU member state for the same cost as at home.

“This is a great victory for European consumers”, said rapporteur Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D, FI). “We can now celebrate the fact that from 15 June on there will be no more roaming fees. Users travelling in across Europe will be able to check emails, use maps, upload photos on the social media, phone and text home without extra cost.”

Parliament removed the final hurdle – wholesale price caps – by endorsing an informal deal on them, already informally agreed with the Council, by 549 votes to 27 and 50 abstentions.

Background

The informal [agreement between the Parliament and Council](#) on wholesale price caps defines how much telecoms operators can charge each other for using their networks to carry cross-border “roaming” calls. Wholesale roaming prices indirectly affect consumers’ final bills.

Lower caps for data transfers would enable EU consumers to access more more data such as audio-visual content when travelling from a country to another. This could also open up markets for small and virtual telecoms operators.

Procedure: Co-decision (first reading agreement)

New wholesale price caps

- Voice call: €0.032
- Gigabyte: €7.7 (15/06/2017), €6 (01/01/2018), €4.5 (01/01/2019), €3.5 (01/01/2020), €3 (01/01/2021), €2.5 (01/01/2022)
- Text message: €0.01

Further information

- Steps of the procedure: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2016/0185\(COD\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2016/0185(COD)&l=en)
- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html>
- Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D, FI): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/124735.html>
- Adopted text (2016/0185(COD)) will soon be available here (06.04.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html>
- Video recording of debate (click on 05.04.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live/en/plenary/search-by-date>
- EbS+ (05.04.2017) : <http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/ebs/schedule.cfm?sitelang=en&page=3&institution=0&date=04/05/2017>

Press release

- Press release after the inter-institutional negotiations (01.02.2017): <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170130IPR60199/end-of-mobile-roaming-charges-deal-on-lower-wholesale-price-caps>
- Audiovisual material for professionals: <http://www.audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/roaming>

Political groups

- News pages of the EPP group : <http://bit.ly/1WuQLqB>
- Press release by the S&D group: <http://bit.ly/2oGEAfz>
- News pages of the ECR group: <http://bit.ly/1Y0YFrj>
- News pages of the ALDE group: <http://bit.ly/2ikk6qK>
- News pages of the GUE/NGL group: <http://bit.ly/1UrAIM9>
- Press release by the Greens/EFA group: <http://bit.ly/2n6vzwC>
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- News pages of the EFDD group: <http://bit.ly/1TUnDFU>
- News pages of the ENF group: <http://bit.ly/2cxzxcR>

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