

Mr. Andrus ANSIP
Vice-President
Commissioner for the Digital Single Market
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 26 November 2015

Dear Commissioner,

Following the European Parliament's final approval of the new telecoms package on 27 October 2015, roaming charges for using mobile phones abroad in the EU will be abolished as from 15 June 2017.

As you will agree, meeting the long-standing demand of banning roaming fees is not only a big advantage for customers, but constitutes also a very sensible achievement of what the EU as a whole can do for its citizens. Yet, important details of the package might have some unwanted consequences for the many people crossing borders day in, day out.

More specifically we are worried by the fact that, according to the negotiated agreement between the Council and the European Parliament, roaming providers are allowed to apply a so-called "faire-use policy" in order to prevent abusive or anomalous usage of roaming services, which includes using roaming services for purposes other than periodic travel. We fear that this measure might in fact penalize the daily cross-border commuters, who cannot prevent themselves from frequently using roaming services.

In e.g. the Euregions Meuse-Rhine and Saar-Lor-Lux - the regions of our respective constituencies - people are constantly and naturally crossing borders for work and education, for commerce and services, as well as leisure. The many advantages of the EU and what it stands for are truly part of our citizens' daily life. It is against this backdrop that we have to make sure that they, and all the other regular border crossers in the EU, don't become the bereaved of a principally laudable initiative, by de facto not benefiting from the end of roaming charges.

Since the detailed rules on the application of the fair use policy are to be defined by the Commission, we are kindly asking you to ensure that the inhabitants of border regions and

the regular cross-border commuters are not disadvantaged, and are looking forward to hearing from you in due course.

Should you deem it appropriate, we would of course be happy to further discuss this matter with you in a personal meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal ARIMONT

Sabine VERHEYEN

Ivo BELET

Jeroen LENAERS

Claude ROLIN

Members of the European Parliament
Members of the Euregions Working Group

A letter in identical terms is being forwarded to Mr. Günther H. OETTINGER, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society.

ANDRUS ANSIP

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 13. 01. 2016
KK/bk - Ares (2016)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
Members of the Euregions Working Group
Ms S. Verheyen, MEP
Mr P. Arimont, MEP
Mr I. Belet, MEP
Mr J. Lenaers, MEP
Mr Cl. Rolin, MEP
60 rue Wiertz
BE – 1047 Brussels

Dear Honourable Members,

I would like to thank you, also on behalf of Commissioner Oettinger, for your letter which underlines the need to enable inhabitants of border regions to fully benefit from the forthcoming end of roaming surcharges in the EU.

In the Regulation you refer to in your letter, the co-legislators have mandated the Commission to define detailed rules on the application of fair use policy to the consumption of roaming services at domestic price. The aim is to guard against abuses, in particular where a regulated roaming regime that has been designed for Europeans travelling outside their Member State of residence would be used to benefit permanently from the domestic prices of another Member States, where costs and competitive conditions may be very different.

On 26 November 2015, the day of publication of this Regulation, the Commission launched a public consultation in order to gather views on how to design the rules on the application of fair use policy. The roaming needs that you identify in your letter are explicitly considered in the public consultation. It is the objective of the Commission that customers who do not make an abusive or anomalous use of roaming services find on the market domestic tariff plans that satisfy their roaming needs.

Pursuant to the Regulation you refer to in your letter, the detailed rules on fair use policy will be adopted by the Commission as an implementing act by 15 December 2016.

Yours sincerely,


Andrus Ansip