

**Question for written answer E-009574/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Alessia Maria Mosca (S&D)

Subject: Possible postponement of the abolition of roaming charges

Last March, the European Parliament voted for zero-rated roaming, in other words to abolish the surcharge for mobile telephone calls made or received abroad. The abolition was to take effect by December 2015.

After several false starts, this major innovation should help to make the market for mobile telephony abroad more attractive and competitive. However, the bill seems to have run out of steam in Council, where the Governments of the 28 Member States have not managed to reach a common position. One reason is powerful pressure from the telecoms giants, which fear serious consequences for investment, research and innovation.

At this point, the Commission might even feel tempted to withdraw and rewrite the proposal. That would obviously postpone the abolition of roaming charges until after 2018.

1. Can the Commission therefore confirm or deny the fears raised above?
2. How does it intend to proceed with regard to any legislation? Does it believe that a possible withdrawal of the original proposal might cause significant delays? Could these have significant repercussions for all European consumers/citizens? Has not the gradual reduction of the cost of calls abroad always been presented as one of the more practical successes achieved by the European Union?