

**Question for written answer E-009992/2014
to the Council**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Abolition of roaming charges and net neutrality

On 3 April 2014 the European Parliament adopted the Commission's 'Connected Continent' legislative package by an overwhelming majority (534 votes in favour). The text adopted by Parliament laid down 15 December 2015 as the date for the abolition of roaming charges for calls and data. It also made a clear commitment to achieving net neutrality, so as to prevent telecommunications companies from making it difficult for people to access services provided by competitors.

It makes no sense that this surcharge for roaming should still be making life difficult; for example, a Eurobarometer survey showed that 70% of Europeans stop using their mobiles as much when they are outside their home country.

Given the plans to postpone the abolition of such surcharges and bearing in mind the fact that they make no sense within the digital single market that the Council has firmly committed to establishing:

1. Is the Council committed to abolishing roaming charges before 2016, in line with the text adopted by the European Parliament and with the wishes of the general public?
2. Does the Council consider the existence of roaming charges and the lack of net neutrality to be compatible with the objective of establishing a digital single market?