

**Question for written answer E-003582/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL) and Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Delay in abolishing roaming charges

Recently, the Council made proposals to delay abolishing roaming charges until at least 2018 and to allow for only 5 MB of roaming without charges. This is at odds with Parliament's position, adopted last year, in strong support of abolishing roaming charges within the EU by the end of 2015.

Does the Commission agree that such delays in abolishing roaming charges will have a detrimental effect on consumers across the EU and in particular on those living and working in border areas, such as the region spanning both sides of the Irish border?

Does the Commission agree that roaming charges constitute a considerable obstacle to the development of, and investment in, small and medium-sized businesses in cross-border areas that are already suffering from a lack of economic activity?

Does the Commission agree that a delay in eliminating roaming charges is counterproductive to the EU's cohesion policy, which is built on the principles of social, economic and territorial cohesion?