

**Question for written answer E-004475/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Filiz Hyusmenova (ALDE)

Subject: Impact of roaming charges and net neutrality provisions on EU consumers

It is obvious from the recent Council proposals that the roaming charges for voice, SMS and data services will not be abolished by the end of 2015, owing to a disagreement between the Member States on balancing the charges for internal and international calls and data usage. Instead, the usage of 5 MB of roaming without charges is envisioned. Proposals on net neutrality have also been weakened. The setting of clear definitions and strong provisions on net neutrality would prevent telecom companies from discriminating against service providers by providing favourable, speedy access to their networks, and would secure fair competition on the internet.

This position impacts the building of a strong European Telecoms Single Market, and ultimately the functioning of the Digital Single Market. How will the Commission make sure that fair competition and consumer rights are protected? Does the Commission envision additional or alternative measures to ensure that providing EU citizens with better mobility would not be at the cost of a significant increase in internal mobile and internet service charges? Does the Commission envision any other measures to foster the development of the Digital Single Market, providing a level playing field for innovation in the field of telecommunications?