

**Question for written answer E-011746/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Ending roaming charges

The European Union has suddenly managed to make itself popular by taking a very significant step towards ending roaming, a business practice which generates a particularly substantial surcharge where a citizen of one Member State makes a mobile phone call from another Member State. Thus, from 1 January 2016, tourists staying in an EU country other than their own will be able to make calls very cheaply: 5 cents per minute, against 21 currently. From 2017, there will be no extra cost, as long as the consumer remains within the limits of his or her 'average' consumption in his or her country of origin. This means that in 2017, large numbers of citizens may be tempted to subscribe with a foreign operator offering cheaper rates than national operators: for example, in Belgium, where mobile calls are expensive, many Belgians might wish to switch to an operator in France, a country where charges have fallen sharply. This could translate into massive job losses in some Member States.

1. What has the Commission planned to address this new form of relocation?
2. Is this trend covered by the negotiations on the **Transatlantic** Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)?