

**Question for written answer E-000305/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Krišjānis Kariņš (PPE)

Subject: Role of BEREC in introducing the regulation on a single telecommunications market

The single telecommunications market, or 'Connected Continent', is an important precondition for the European Union's Single Digital Market, and is one of the Commission's most important and ambitious initiatives. At present, telecommunications markets, operators' pricing policies, supply, consumer demand and even the style and frequency of use of telecommunications differ widely between Member States. These disparities may particularly affect the various pricing policies of operators in the Member States, as even now in some Member States it is relatively cheap to use telecommunications, yet they are of very high quality, while in other Member States charges and prices are much higher but, because of inadequate competition, the quality on offer is not commensurate with such prices.

Under Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 on the single telecommunications market, which provides for the complete abolition of roaming charges in the EU, the Commission is required to submit a review of the prices of wholesale roaming by 15 June 2016, so that the price disparities can be compared and to ensure that operators in a particular State do not suffer losses as a result of the abolition of roaming charges.

In view of the role of BEREC's work and its remit, when does the Commission plan to seek an assessment by BEREC of the impact on the telecommunications market, including on the market for the pricing of wholesale roaming?

Will BEREC be required to assess the impact on Member States' local tariffs and possible rises in them as a result of the abolition of roaming charges, in order to examine the market's response and to ensure that operators do not suffer losses?

Is the Commission considering assigning to BEREC greater powers and resources to assess the impact on the market after the entry into force of Regulation (EU) No 2015/2120 and to check whether this Regulation is properly complied with?