

**Question for written answer E-003517/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hannu Takkula (ALDE)

Subject: Impact on wholesale charges of the abolition of roaming charges

In Finland, the communications market functions excellently from the point of view of customers. Mobile data charges are the lowest in Europe, and the use of mobile data is higher per capita than anywhere else in the world. This favourable development has been made possible by the fact that Finns have at their disposal unlimited data interfaces, and pricing is based on connection speed. This model is very valuable to consumers. The ample use made of mobile data promotes the progress of digitisation. The networks of Finnish operators are also of excellent quality.

The EU has decided to abolish roaming charges for final consumers in the summer of 2017. However, no decisions have yet been taken to reduce wholesale roaming charges. In order to make it economically possible to abolish the roaming charges that final consumers are required to pay, it is essential for the wholesale charges paid by one operator to another to be reduced to a fraction of current levels. Unless wholesale roaming charges are reduced substantially by means of regulation, there is a risk that national consumer charges will rise significantly and that the advanced communications market will go into decline, putting a brake on digitisation.

What measures will the Commission take to ensure that wholesale roaming charges are substantially reduced, so that consumers do not suffer from the future reform of roaming?