

**Question for written answer E-006909/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: Wholesale abolition of roaming charges in the EU

Almost a year ago, the Commission announced the advent of a new era in mobile communications with the abolition of roaming charges throughout the EU from June 2017. In addition, roaming charges were reduced considerably in April 2016, which has not only made easier for millions of Europeans, but also encouraged many businesses – including SMEs – to take full advantage of the opportunity afforded by the digital revolution.

Unfortunately, the proposal for a regulation submitted by the Commission in early September 2016 includes provisions which suggest that the Commission is backing away from this much-needed, beneficial and long-awaited process. According to the proposal, roaming charges will be abolished for no more than 30 consecutive days and a total of 90 days per year. In addition, operators could restrict data transmission.

In the light of the controversy aroused by the proposal, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker rightly ordered for it to be withdrawn and for work to begin on a new proposal. Can the Commission say if it is still planning to have roaming charges abolished in June 2017?