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Committee on Culture and Education

2008/0187(COD)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 717/2007 on roaming on public mobile telephone networks within the Community and Directive 2002/21/EC on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services
(COM(2008)0580 – C6-0333/2008 – 2008/0187(COD))

Rapporteur: Manolis Mavrommatis

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AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Culture and Education calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Some operators face higher wholesale costs than others due to geographical or other circumstances, such as difficult topography, regions with low population density, large influxes of tourists within short time periods;

Or. en

Justification

We should keep in mind that some mobile operators may have more costs than others in the installation, the maintenance and the upgrade of the mobile networks, due to the above mentioned circumstances.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation – amending act Recital 35

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(35) In addition, in order to avoid bill shocks, mobile operators should offer all their roaming customers, free of charge, an opportunity to specify in advance a maximum financial limit for their outstanding charges for data roaming services, with an appropriate warning message when this limit is approached. Upon this maximum limit being reached,

(35) In addition, in order to avoid bill shocks, mobile operators should offer all their roaming customers, ***with special attention to students, business travellers or reporting journalists and media assistants***, free of charge, an opportunity to specify in advance a maximum financial limit for their outstanding charges for data roaming services, with an appropriate

the data roaming service should be terminated unless the customer specifically requests its continued provision.

warning message when this limit is approached. Upon this maximum limit being reached, the data roaming service should be terminated unless the customer specifically requests its continued provision.

Or. en

Justification

It is a fact that students and business travellers use and need the data downloads more often than others.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 2 – point a

Regulation 717/2007/EC

Article 1 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. This Regulation introduces a common approach to ensuring that users of public mobile communications networks when travelling within the Community do not pay excessive prices for Community-wide roaming services when making calls and receiving calls, when sending and receiving SMS messages and when using packet switched data communication services, thereby contributing to the smooth functioning of the internal market while achieving a high level of consumer protection, safeguarding competition between mobile operators and preserving both incentives for innovation and consumer choice.

Amendment

1. This Regulation introduces a common approach to ensuring that users of public mobile communications networks, ***with special attention to students, business travellers or reporting journalists and media assistants***, when travelling within the Community do not pay excessive prices for Community-wide roaming services when making calls and receiving calls, when sending and receiving SMS messages and when using packet switched data communication services, thereby contributing to the smooth functioning of the internal market while achieving a high level of consumer protection, safeguarding competition between mobile operators and preserving both incentives for innovation and consumer choice.

Or. en

Justification

Young people and especially students mostly communicate with SMS as it is the cheapest fast way of communication. Especially nowadays that everyone wants to enhance student mobility, we need to guarantee that operators don't take advantage of the popularity of this type of communication. On the other hand, businessmen are the ones who mostly need to download a file while being abroad. Thus, we mention particularly these two categories of travellers, as they are the most affected by the overpricing.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 6

Regulation 717/2007/EC

Article 4a – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) Some operators face higher wholesale costs than others due to geographical or other circumstances, such as difficult topography, regions with low population density, large influxes of tourists within short time periods;

Or. en