

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5145/08
by Lambert van Nistelrooij (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Telecoms: impact of mobile termination rates (MTRs)

In July 2008, a number of major European telecommunications operators stated in their report 'Assessing the impact of lowering mobile termination rates' (MTRs, the prices which roaming operators charge each other for the use of the networks) that the Commission's proposals to substantially restrict these MTRs for mobile telephony and the Internet would have damaging effects on consumer call behaviour.

Operators claim that a compulsory substantial lowering of MTRs would result in a major price increase for consumers. Any losses would be passed on by operators to the consumer in the subscription price. Operators also warn that there would, for example, be 154 million fewer mobile connections if subscription costs rose in this way.

Does the Commission agree with these assertions?

If not, can the Commission explain why it considers that the lowering of MTRs would not have any adverse effects for the consumer and that, on the contrary, the consumer can only benefit from cheaper MTRs?