Question for written answer E-011687/2011
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Mobile termination tariffs

The Italian Regulatory Authority for Communications (Agcom) recently introduced a new draft regulation on mobile termination tariffs.

The draft regulation, whose adoption comes a long time after the presentation of its first draft in June 2011, maintains tariffs at their current rate (EUR 0.053 per minute, the highest in Europe) until July 2012 and does not envisage full symmetry between all mobile phone operators until July 2013.

This tariff reduction route does not take into account either the guidelines set out in the Commission's 2009 recommendation which envisages full tariff symmetry by 31 December 2012, or the letter sent by the Commission to Agcom last July in which it criticised the proposed tariff rates and called on Agcom to adhere to the deadlines for symmetry.

Agcom's decision delays the benefits for Italians consumers who must continue to pay very high rates to call mobile phones from a fixed line. This is why a petition by Italian consumers calling on Agcom to cut at once its mobile termination tariffs has collected 20 000 signatures in the last few weeks.

Would the Commission not agree that it should take steps once again to force the Italian Authority to comply with EU legislation, in order to protect Italian consumers?