

**Question for written answer E-009097/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE)

Subject: Ceiling on roaming charges in relation to national charges

The Third Roaming Regulation places new ceilings on how much the providers can charge customers for roaming services in another EU country.

How can it be that these ceilings are not applicable also to consumers' use of mobile networks in their own country?

As an example, with a Belgian mobile phone subscription you may be charged:

- €0.20 for a one-minute call to a telephone number in Belgium;
- €0.15 for an SMS sent to another Belgian number; and
- €0.50 for downloading 1 MB of data inside Belgium.

At least as far as the SMS charge is concerned, this is considerably higher than the ceiling on roaming charges. This means, in practice, that when you are in Belgium it is less expensive to use a Danish telephone number than a Belgian one, although the network is the same.

Is it really the case that a national provider is allowed to charge prices exceeding the ceilings on roaming charges, or does this merely reflect the complete lack of competition on the Belgian mobile telephony market?