

**Question for written answer E-005430/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: Abolition of roaming charges: guarantees for consumers?

At present, European citizens are charged heavily for using their mobile telephones outside their country of residence. They pay nearly 45 centimes per megabyte for data downloaded when they are abroad. According to a survey by the Commission, 28 % of travellers in the European Union switch off their telephones to avoid roaming charges when they are abroad.

Accordingly, on 3 April 2014, the European Parliament voted in favour of provisions which will make it possible by 2015 to do away with overcharging of citizens by telecom operators when they visit other Member States. In other words, a mobile telephone call made from one Member State to another will cost the same amount as a domestic call (and the same principle will apply to text messages or data roaming). These provisions have yet to be approved by the Council before they can enter into force.

This is a revolution in telephony, and a considerable advance for communication among people in Europe. But if this new rule is introduced, there is a risk that telecom operators may offset their loss of revenue due to the abolition of roaming charges by means of other practices, such as higher charges across the board. In other words, they would make European consumers foot the bill for their losses.

Can the Commission inform the citizens whom I represent what guarantees it could introduce in order to regulate the commercial practices of telecom operators?