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Creation date : 19-04-2024

[A common charger for electronic devices: Revision of the Radio Equipment Directive](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 01-02-2023

Author SAJN Nikolina

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electricity storage device | electronics and electrical engineering | European standard | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | harmonisation of standards | INDUSTRY | market approval | marketing | marketing standard | mobile phone | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | technical standard | technology and technical regulations | telecommunications equipment | TRADE

Summary On 23 November 2022, the European Parliament and the Council signed the directive amending the 2014 Radio Equipment Directive, with the aim of mandating a common charger for mobile phones and a number of other small portable devices. The amended directive, proposed by the European Commission on 23 September 2021, will require electronic devices to be equipped with a USB Type C receptacle and to incorporate the USB Power Delivery communication protocol. A separate initiative on the eco-design of external power supplies is expected to ensure that the receptacle and the communication protocol are used on both ends of charger cables. Consumers will have the option to buy devices with or without a charger (unbundling) and will be informed by a pictogram whether a charger is included with a device. Information on the charging capabilities and compatible charging devices will be provided on a label. By the end of 2024, the Commission will be required to request the creation of harmonised standards for wireless charging, and will have to regularly assess whether the common charger should be made mandatory for additional devices. The directive applies to all devices covered from 28 December 2024 and to laptops from 28 April 2026. Fifth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [A common charger for electronic devices: Revision of the Radio Equipment Directive](#)

[Roaming Regulation review](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-05-2022

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar | Niestadt Maria

Policy area Industry

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | mobile phone | price regulations | prices | proposal (EU) | regulation (EU) | regulation of telecommunications | roaming | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network

Summary The Roaming Regulation established the 'roam like at home' (RLAH) rule that mandated the end of retail mobile roaming charges as of 15 June 2017 in all EU Member States and EEA countries. The regulation is currently in force until 30 June 2022. The application of the RLAH rule has been a success, boosting the use of mobile devices while travelling to other EU/EEA countries. For instance, the use of data roaming increased 17 times in the summer of 2019 compared with the summer preceding the abolition of roaming surcharges. Nevertheless, five years after its implementation, the Commission needed to review the Roaming Regulation, with a view to extending the roaming market rules for a further 10 years. The Commission also sought to continue lowering wholesale roaming charges, improve the quality of roaming services, and provide access to all available network generations and technologies, including free access to emergency services, and information on any cost incurred in accessing value added services. Within the European Parliament the file was allocated to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The committee report was adopted on 14 October 2021, and the mandate for trilogue negotiations approved in plenary the following week. For its part, the Council agreed its position on 16 June 2021. The co-legislators reached a provisional agreement on the text on 9 December 2021. According to the final text, which was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 13 April 2022 and enters into force on 1 July 2022, the RLAH regime will be renewed for a further 10 years.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Recast of the EU Roaming Regulation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 21-03-2022

Author Niestadt Maria

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | employment | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | freedom to provide services | mobile phone | price regulations | prices | regulation (EU) | roaming | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network

Summary To ensure that consumers can continue to 'roam' in other Member States without additional charges, the European Commission proposed on 24 February 2021 to recast the current Roaming Regulation. The new regulation would extend the 'roam like at home' regime for 10 years until 2032. The European Parliament is expected to vote in plenary in March on the agreement reached in interinstitutional negotiations.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Common chargers – Revision of the Radio Equipment Directive

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-02-2022

Author DALLI HUBERT

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword communications | consumer information | consumption | deterioration of the environment | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic device | electronic waste | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | environmental protection | European standard | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | harmonisation of standards | impact study | INDUSTRY | mobile phone | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | proposal (EU) | radio equipment | technical standard | technology and technical regulations | telecommunications equipment | TRADE

Summary The Commission is proposing a new directive on consumer credits to amend the Radio Equipment Directive by introducing provisions regarding common mobile phone chargers. This initial appraisal of the Commission's impact assessment accompanying the proposal finds that the impact assessment appears to provide a comprehensive assessment, based on a sound evidence base, of the impacts of the policy options, though the assessment would have benefited from a more thorough discussion of the alignment of the initiative with the proportionality principle and the impacts accruing to SMEs.

Briefing [EN](#)

Research for PECH Committee - Electronic technologies for fisheries - Part III: Systems adapted for small-scale vessels

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-09-2021

Author BREUER Marcus Ernst Gerhard | LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Fisheries

Keyword AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | fisheries | mobile phone | sustainable fisheries | video surveillance

Summary This At-a-glance note is the third in a series of three, prepared for a PECH Committee Workshop. It examines and presents possibilities of electronic technologies (ET) that can be used to report, document and monitor fishery activities of the small-scale vessel fleet. The national fishing fleets in the EU are large where most of the vessels are less than 12 metres in length. The information on this fleet segment's fishing activities is limited and insufficient for documentation of the fleet's impact on the environment and for fisheries management and governance in general. The present research contains four case studies with current usages of such technologies developed for small-scale vessels.

At a Glance [EN](#)

Improving roaming on public mobile telecommunications networks

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-05-2021

Author TUOMINEN ULLA-MARI

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | impact study | mobile phone | price regulations | prices | proposal (EU) | regulation of telecommunications | roaming | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network

Summary This briefing finds that the Commission's impact assessment (IA) accompanying the regulation proposal (recast) on roaming is based on sound data and broad stakeholder consultations. Besides qualitative assessment, the IA presents also quantified estimates. The REFIT cost savings are only partially quantified. Further explanations would have benefited the analysis in the comparison of policy options.

Briefing [EN](#)

[Tracking mobile devices to fight coronavirus](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-04-2020

Author DUMBRAVA Costica

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus | Public Health

Keyword communications | coronavirus disease | data protection | disclosure of information | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | health | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | LAW | mobile phone | personal data | protection of privacy | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary Governments around the world have turned to digital technologies to tackle the coronavirus crisis. One of the key measures has been to use mobile devices to monitor populations and track individuals who are infected or at risk. About half of the EU's Member States have taken location-tracking measures in response to the spread of the coronavirus disease, mainly by working with telecommunications companies to map population movements using anonymised and aggregate location data and by developing applications (apps) for tracking people who are at risk. The European Commission has called for a common EU approach to the use of mobile apps and mobile data to assess social distancing measures, support contact-tracing efforts, and contribute to limiting the spread of the virus. While governments may be justified in limiting certain fundamental rights and freedoms in order to take effective steps to fight the epidemic, such exceptional and temporary measures need to comply with applicable fundamental rights standards and EU rules on data protection and privacy. This briefing discusses location-tracking measures using mobile devices in the context of the Covid 19 crisis. It describes initiatives in EU Member States and provides a brief analysis of fundamental rights standards and the EU policy framework, including applicable EU rules on data protection and privacy.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[What if smartphones could help contain COVID-19?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 24-03-2020

Author KURRER CHRISTIAN MARTIN

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Development and Humanitarian Aid | Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Forward Planning | Public Health | Research Policy

Keyword communications | coronavirus disease | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | exchange of information | health | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | mobile phone | personal data | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary In recent years, smartphones have increasingly attracted attention as a key tools in emergency and disaster situations. Almost all smartphones are nowadays equipped with GPS sensors that can track the location of their owners. Comparing the location history of infected individuals with the location history of all other Smartphone users (tested positive or not yet tested) could help health authorities gain much better understanding of where the transmission might have occurred, and who else should be tested with urgency, avoiding the further spread of the infection.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Mobile phones and health: Where do we stand?](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 20-03-2019

Author SCHOLZ Nicole

Policy area Public Health

Keyword cancer | communications | deterioration of the environment | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | EU institutions and European civil service | European Environment Agency | EUROPEAN UNION | health | health risk | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | medical research | mobile phone | non-ionising radiation | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | research and intellectual property | scientific research | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary Mobile phones are an integral part of everyday life, and it is hard to imagine a world without them. There are nevertheless health concerns, and the debate is ongoing. There is a vast body of research on the potential risks from exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields such as those emitted by mobile phones. Yet scientific opinion remains split over the possibility of a link between mobile phone radiation and health problems. The results of research in this area have been interpreted in a variety of ways, and studies have been criticised for their methodological flaws, lack of statistical significance, and bias. In 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a branch of the World Health Organization, classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic (cancer-causing) to humans. The European Union defined basic restrictions for limiting exposure to electromagnetic fields in Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC, setting maximum values that should not to be exceeded. Moreover, in view of the scientific uncertainty, the European Environment Agency advises taking a precautionary approach. Two sets of large-scale experimental studies involving laboratory animals, one from the United States National Toxicology Program and another from the Italian Ramazzini Institute, have recently brought the debate to the fore again. Both found varying levels of evidence of certain tumours in some of the animals tested. The results have nevertheless prompted diverging conclusions.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#), [FR](#)

Roaming: One Year After Implementation

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 12-11-2018

External author Colin Blackman and Simon Forge

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Forward Planning | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword communications | consumer price | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | data transmission | digital single market | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | Internet | mobile communication | mobile phone | prices | regulation of telecommunications | roaming | single market | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network | universal service | wholesale price

Summary This in-depth analysis was prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the ITRE Committee. It examines the impacts one year after implementation of the EU's Roaming Regulation that introduced Roam Like at Home (RLAH), by reviewing both the retail and wholesale markets. The retail roaming market was found to be performing well for most stakeholders. However, in the wholesale market, adjusting the wholesale price cap is necessary so that MVNOs may compete more effectively.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

EU abolishes mobile roaming charges

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-06-2017

Policy area Consumer Protection

Keyword communications | consumer price | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | data transmission | digital single market | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | Internet | mobile communication | mobile phone | prices | regulation of telecommunications | roaming | single market | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network | universal service

Summary Almost all EU residents own a mobile phone for their personal or professional use. When they travel to another EU country and use it to call, text or go online, they used to have to pay additional costs (roaming charges). This situation, which made travel within the EU more complicated and expensive for consumers and businesses, has come to an end: the latest EU Roaming Regulation abolished the extra costs on 15 June 2017. Since then, 'roam like at home' (RLAH) has become a reality for all Europeans. The new roaming-free zone covers not only the EU, but the whole of the European Economic Area (EEA), which includes the EU and three European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Briefing [EN](#)

Towards a European gigabit society: Connectivity targets and 5G

Publication type Briefing

Date 09-06-2017

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar

Policy area Industry | Research Policy

Keyword communications | digital single market | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | information technology | innovation | Internet | mobile communication | mobile phone | new technology | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public-private partnership | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | telecommunications industry | transmission network

Summary In September 2016, the Commission put forward new strategic connectivity objectives for 2025 as part of its digital single market strategy. These should prepare Europe for the roll-out of the next generation of broadband infrastructure with gigabit speeds, including both fixed and mobile internet access (5G). Once available, from 2020 onwards, 5G is expected to enable an array of new innovative services that will transform sectors such as manufacturing, energy, vehicle manufacturing and health, bringing them into the era of the internet of things. Given its importance for EU competitiveness, the Commission is speeding up 5G by co-financing research and development. The 5G-PPP public-private partnership is the largest initiative of its kind in the world, with €700 million in EU funding, to be topped up with private funding to reach a total budget of €3.5 billion by 2025. There is some concern that not all consumers and businesses in Europe will benefit from the gigabit society, given the current and future digital divide between urban and rural areas and across EU countries. For example if gigabit speeds and 5G are available only to areas with high demand, users are likely to be highly reluctant to pay for it as many new services will need continuity across borders and geographic areas. Progress in building the European gigabit society is expected once an updated EU telecoms framework is in place. This will enable high levels of investment in network infrastructure and increased policy coordination across Member States, for instance increasing spectrum harmonisation for 5G and co-investment of deployments. Both the proposed European Electronic Communications Code and the 5G action plan are of high importance for the Council and Parliament, and essential if the EU is to take the lead in the global 5G race.

Briefing [EN](#), [FR](#)

Wholesale roaming regulation: A precondition for 'roam like at home'

Publication type Briefing

Date 06-12-2016

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar

Policy area Adoption of Legislation by EP and Council | Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | data transmission | distributive trades | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Internet | LAW | mobile communication | mobile phone | regulation (EU) | regulation of telecommunications | rights and freedoms | single market | tariff policy | tariff policy | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network | universal service | wholesale trade

Summary In 2015 the Council and European Parliament agreed in Regulation 2015/2120 that on 15 June 2017 roaming charges for mobile phone use would be abolished in the EU. After that date, 'roam like at home' (RLAH) would become a reality for all Europeans. The regulation did not, however, address the wholesale roaming market, on account of the need to investigate market conditions in more depth. A review for the European Commission concluded that national wholesale roaming markets are not working well and need regulatory intervention. It therefore proposed a regulation establishing the maximum level of wholesale roaming charges that telecoms operators can charge each other, to take effect from 15 June 2017. Stakeholder reactions are divided: while consumers would enjoy free roaming, operators are worried about recovering costs at wholesale level. On 29 November, Parliament's Industry Committee voted for a reduction in the call and data wholesale caps proposed by the Commission. A more recent edition of this document is available. Find it by searching by the document title at this address: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/home.html>

Briefing [EN](#)

European Leadership in 5G

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-11-2016

External author Colin BLACKMAN (Camford Associates Ltd ; CEPS) and Simon FORGE (SCF Associates Ltd.)

Policy area Forward Planning | Industry | Research Policy

Keyword communications | digital single market | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic device | electronics and electrical engineering | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | industrial investment | industrial structures and policy | INDUSTRY | information technology | innovation | Internet | mobile communication | mobile phone | new technology | POLITICS | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | public-private partnership | research and intellectual property | technology and technical regulations | telecommunications industry | transmission network

Summary Prepared by Policy Department A at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), this report examines the concept for 5G, how it might fit in the future telecommunications landscape, the state of play in R&D in the EU and globally, the possible business models and the role of standards and spectrum policy, to assess the EU's strategic position.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

The review of national wholesale roaming markets and the Roaming Regulation

Publication type Briefing

Date 31-05-2016

Author SCHREFLER Lorna

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Industry | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword application of EU law | communications | distributive trades | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | mobile phone | price regulations | prices | regulation of telecommunications | retail price | telephone charges | TRADE | wholesale price | wholesale trade

Summary The Roaming Regulation has contributed to ongoing efforts to achieve a Connected Continent and a well-functioning EU Digital Single Market. Through various amendments to the initial 2007 Roaming Regulation, the Commission and co-legislators have gradually reduced surcharges for making and receiving voice calls, sending and receiving SMS messages and using data on a mobile phone while in another EU Member State. European Commission estimates indicate that total savings for EU consumers between 2009 and 2013 amounted to €9.6 billion. On 30 April 2016, the latest reduction in charges became applicable throughout the EU. The next step in the process is the planned abolition of all retail roaming surcharges as of 15 June 2017. Yet, to achieve this goal several questions remain open, in particular as regards the status of wholesale roaming markets. Indeed, despite amendments to the Roaming Regulation, the current state of the EU telecoms market is fragmented and several adjustments are needed before a roaming-free policy can be fully implemented. While the abolition of retail surcharges up to a fair use limit would allow customers to replicate their domestic mobile usage patterns across the EU, the appropriate level of wholesale roaming caps needs to be found and possible mitigating measures adopted for mobile operators inter alia to recover costs. As the recent public consultation on national wholesale roaming markets has shown, finding a balanced solution remains complex. Customers from home and visited markets, mobile operators, NRAs and stakeholders have various conflicting interests. In particular, divisions exist between small and large operators, and between Member States depending on whether they have higher inbound than outbound roaming traffic. Last but not least is the need to reconcile the protection of consumer interests with operators' abilities to remain competitive and sustainable.

Briefing [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

Planned obsolescence: Exploring the issue

Publication type Briefing

Date 02-05-2016

Author VALANT Jana

Policy area Consumer Protection | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | Industry

Keyword BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | civil law | communications | consumption | deterioration of the environment | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic waste | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | household electrical appliance | INDUSTRY | LAW | mobile phone | producer's liability | product design | product life | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | waste recycling

Summary Although no overarching definition of planned obsolescence exists, the term 'planned obsolescence' (of products or technology) is described as the intentional production of goods and services with short economic lives, stimulating consumers to repeat purchases too frequently. The incandescent light bulb with an engineered shorter lifespan (the Phoebus cartel case) is one example from the past of proven planned obsolescence. Data suggest that the median lifespans of certain categories of product have been shortening, and consumer organisations have drawn attention to more recent suspected cases of planned obsolescence in connection with washing machines, inkjet cartridges, electronic devices, etc. One Member State – France – recently introduced a definition of planned obsolescence into its legislation, making it a punishable offence. No specific EU rules mention planned obsolescence, but the subject ties in with EU legislation on ecodesign, waste, use of natural resources, consumer information and the new package from the European Commission on the circular economy. The main consumer concerns and problematic strategies associated with the issue are: design features that do not allow repair, upgradability or interoperability with other devices; the unavailability of spare parts and high repair costs; and marketing strategies pushing consumers to buy new, fashionable products and replace existing ones very quickly. Various ways to curb the practice of planned obsolescence have been proposed, not least a shift towards a culture that values product durability and sustainability.

Briefing [EN](#)

Digital development in Sub-Saharan Africa

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-11-2015

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword administrative transparency | Africa | communications | digital divide | economic conditions | economic growth | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | executive power and public service | GEOGRAPHY | governance | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | integrated development | mobile phone | POLITICS | sub-Saharan Africa | telecommunications industry

Summary In the past decade, the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), especially of mobile communications, has increased exponentially in Sub-Saharan Africa. It has become common to talk of a 'mobile revolution' sweeping the region, with mobile phone use spreading quickly, geographically and socially, accompanied by novel applications, impacting on other areas of economic life. The internet still has to catch up with the mobile sector, but there are encouraging signs that it will do so. Building the necessary connection infrastructure has considerably advanced, and digital devices are becoming more affordable. However, general literacy and digital skills across the population need to be improved in order for African countries to fully reap the benefits of the digitalisation, and this is a more difficult challenge to tackle.

ICT is having an impact on many sectors of the economy, from access to basic amenities like electricity supply and clean water, to financial transactions. It has been a major driver of economic growth and an important contributor to public budgets. A number of digital applications adapted to specific local conditions have been developed in sectors such as agriculture, education, health, and democratic governance. The potential uses of ICT in such sectors promise a transformative impact on economic, social and political life, spurring development in numerous areas. If current trends continue, more and more people will see their life touched by these new technologies. It is also important to remain aware of the potential limitations of the new technologies, which cannot fully substitute, for example, for other major drivers of economic growth, or for real teachers and schools. Digital communications can be used to improve governance, but may also stoke conflict and violence in the absence of appropriate checks. ICT tools can increase public transparency, but cannot on their own eliminate corruption.

Briefing [EN](#)

European single market for electronic communications

Publication type At a Glance

Date 20-10-2015

Author NEGREIRO ACHIAGA Maria Del Mar

Policy area Economics and Monetary Issues | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | drafting of EU law | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Internet | mobile phone | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telephone charges | TRADE | transmission network

Summary The 'Connected Continent' proposal for a single telecoms market, presented in September 2013 by the European Commission, aimed to tackle existing bottlenecks hindering the development of the Digital Single Market (DSM). Progress on two of its elements – an end to roaming charges and EU wide rules on net neutrality – has been achieved, and the compromise agreed in trilogue on these points will be voted during the October III Plenary.

At a Glance [DE](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [IT](#), [PL](#)

[Google antitrust proceedings: Digital business and competition](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-07-2015

Author KARAKAS Cemal

Policy area Consumer Protection | Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword America | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | commercial law | communications | competition | consumer protection | consumption | digital technology | dominant position | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU competition policy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | GEOGRAPHY | information technology | Internet site | mobile phone | political geography | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | trade policy | United States

Summary Google holds around 90% of the market share for internet search services in most European Economic Area (EEA) countries, and several companies have complained to the European Commission about Google's market dominance. The European Commission has thus formally launched two separate investigations, one on Google's comparison shopping and the other on the company's handling of applications installed on Android operating mobile devices. In April 2015, the Commission sent a Statement of Objections to Google, indicating that the company had abused its dominant position in the European Economic Area (EEA). Google admits that it is dominant, thanks to its innovative products and services, but does not agree that it has abused its position on the market. The Google case may provide an opportunity for the Commission to clarify some aspects of competition law with regard to certain digital practices, and to close the difficult gap between the rights of companies who dominate the market, free competition and consumer protection.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Consumer protection aspects of mobile payments](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 22-06-2015

Author VALANT Jana

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword advertising malpractice | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business ethics | business organisation | communications | competition | computer crime | consumer protection | consumption | data protection | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | electronic money | FINANCE | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information technology and data processing | marketing | mobile phone | monetary economics | systems interconnection | TRADE

Summary Over the next few years, mobile commerce in Europe is expected to grow at an average compound annual rate of 42%. The way in which consumers purchase goods and services is changing significantly as new technologies permit the development of an increasing number of cashless payment solutions. There are various forms of mobile payment (payment, for which the payment data and the payment instruction is initiated, transmitted or confirmed via a mobile phone or device). They include payments via SMS, direct billing (by adding the payment to the monthly mobile phone bill), mobile web payments (using a credit/debit card or pre-registration at an online payment provider), and Near Field Communication (NFC). However some of the challenges to consumer protection, such as lack of interoperability between mobile payment options, personal data protection, digital identity theft and fraud, prevent greater consumer take-up of mobile payments. Unfair commercial practices in e-commerce relevant to mobile payments include misleading advertising, hidden payment obligation and IP tracking. Other consumer protection issues are dormant assets, lack of accessibility and readability of payment-related information, and concerns related to vulnerable consumers. While the current legislative framework is undergoing revision as a result of the European Commission's new proposal for a Directive on payment services in the internal market, some stakeholders voice concerns.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

[Roaming charges in the EU](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 25-07-2014

Author CLAROS GIMENO Eulalia

Policy area Industry

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | data transmission | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | mobile phone | price reduction | prices | prices policy | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telephone charges | TRADE

Summary The "roaming charge" refers to the cost of using mobile communications (typically with a mobile phone) to make and receive voice calls, send and receive data, or access other services, when travelling outside the geographical area of the user's home network and using another network in the location they are visiting. (Eurostat) Wholesale prices refer to the amount network operators charge each other for carrying traffic, whereas the caller is charged the retail price.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[European Added Value in Action: The Added Value of EU Policy on Mobile Telephone Roaming Charges](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 15-07-2014

Author CASALPRIM Eva

Policy area Consumer Protection | European Added Value

Keyword communications | consumer policy | consumption | cross-frontier data flow | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EU law | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | mobile phone | price reduction | prices | prices policy | regulation of telecommunications | single market | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | telephone charges | TRADE | travel

Summary This 'At a Glance' publication is part of a series of summaries of the added value of existing EU policies in practice. Previous publications in this series include summaries of the benefits of the European single market and the added value of EU action in the fields of airline services and air passenger rights.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

[Integrated Urban e-Ticketing for Public Transport and Touristic Sites](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 15-01-2014

External author Maïke Puhe (Project Leader), Markus Edelmann and Max Reichenbach (ITAS-KIT)

Policy area Tourism | Transport

Keyword carriage of passengers | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic money | FINANCE | impact of information technology | information and information processing | information medium | information technology and data processing | information technology applications | intelligent transport system | means of public conveyance | mobile phone | monetary economics | organisation of transport | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | telematics | ticket | tourist infrastructure | TRANSPORT | transport policy

Summary This report deals with the development of integrated e-ticketing systems for public transport and touristic sites in cities. While technologies are already available and ready to meet multi-function requirements, e-ticketing has not yet been implemented on a wider scale in Europe. The implementation of an integrated e-ticketing system is a complex process that requires the synchronised activity of heterogeneous actors. Public transport operators and authorities, financial service providers, telecommunications operators, and the tourism sector need to work together to combine their products on a single card. Besides technological characteristics, legal and economic aspects play a decisive role. Stakeholders that are involved in the implementation of an integrated ticketing system need to agree on technical specifications as well as on institutional and governance issues.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [CS](#), [DE](#), [EL](#), [EN](#), [ES](#), [FR](#), [HU](#), [IT](#), [PT](#), [RO](#), [SV](#)

[State of the Art Mobile Internet Connectivity and its Impact on e-Commerce](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 16-07-2012

External author J. Scott Marcus (WIK), Pieter Nooren (TNO) and Imme Philbeck (WIK)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Internal Market and Customs Union | Research Policy

Keyword communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic commerce | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | Internet | marketing | mobile phone | new technology | prices | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | regulation of telecommunications | retail price | single market | technology and technical regulations | TRADE | transmission network

Summary Mobile broadband usage is growing thanks to the popularity of Internet-enabled smart phones and tablets. Mobile data networks are becoming faster and more capable. Europeans increasingly depend on mobile data applications, when at home and when under way. This briefing note considers whether the high price of mobile data roaming inhibits the use of mobile applications; the degree to which the 2012 Roaming Regulation addresses these concerns; and what further measures if any should be taken.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Executive summary](#) [DE](#), [FR](#)

[Review of the Roaming Regulation](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 01-12-2008

External author Dermot Glynn, Gian Carlo Scarsi and Adam Paul Levine (Europe Economics, London, United Kingdom)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | maximum price | mobile phone | prices | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telecommunications policy | telephone charges | TRADE

Summary The study provides an analysis of policy options relating to the extension of the duration and the scope of the Roaming Regulation. In particular, the report reviews the effects that could be foreseen if the Regulation is not extended beyond 30 June 2010 and provides proposals for future price caps. It also looks at whether the scope of the Regulation should be broadened to cover short message services (SMS), multimedia messaging services (MMS) and other data roaming.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

[Workshop on Roaming - Cutting The Cost for Mobile Phone Users is the Roaming Regulation Working ?](#)

Publication type Study

Date 14-12-2007

Author MELLAR Balazs

Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword application of EU law | communications | consumer protection | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | mobile phone | regulation of telecommunications | telephone charges | TRADE

Summary The aim of the workshop was to take stock of the early experiences with the implementation of the Roaming Regulation. It looked at the introduction of the Eurotariff and alternative tariff plans, the implementation of the transparency requirements and the functioning of supervision and enforcement.

Study [EN](#)

[Mobile tv](#)

Publication type Study

Date 08-10-2007

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Policy area Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword choice of technology | communications | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | harmonisation of standards | mobile phone | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | single market | technological change | technology and technical regulations | technology assessment | television

Study [EN](#)

[Roaming - An assessment of the Commission proposal on roaming](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-02-2007

External author Christian Jervelund, Simen Karlsen and Henrik B.Olesen (Copenhagen Economics)

Policy area Consumer Protection | Industry

Keyword communications | consumer protection | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | maximum price | mobile phone | prices | proposal (EU) | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telephone charges | TRADE

Summary In July 2006, the European Commission presented its proposal to regulate international roaming (COM(2006)382 final of 12 July 2006) in order to bring down roaming prices. The motivation for the proposal was that roaming prices far exceeded actual costs of providing roaming services. The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) has asked Copenhagen Economics to review the Commission's proposal. We have identified a number of points where the proposal could be improved. Improving these points would lead to a regulation which is simpler than the proposal made by the Commission.

The Commission proposes two retail price caps for outgoing roaming calls: Based on the Commission's approach, one retail price cap would be 30 eurocents per minute for calling locally within the visited country, and another retail price cap would be 45 eurocents for calling home/calling to a third country. The Commission proposes a retail price cap of 15 eurocents per minute for receiving a call. We find that a single retail price cap at 39 eurocents per minute for making roaming calls irrespective of the destination in the EU is appropriate; and we find that a retail price cap of 26 eurocents per minute for receiving calls is appropriate. We recommend that these caps should apply to the average of calls, not to each individual call. However, we suggest the average price caps are supplemented by 'consumer protection tariffs' set at the level of the individual call to avoid high prices for certain consumer groups. The 'consumer protection tariffs' could be set at 48 eurocents per minute for making calls and 33 eurocents per minute for receiving calls. Our suggestion of a single retail price cap of 39 eurocents per minute for making calls lies between the Commission's proposal for two retail price caps at 30 eurocents and 45 eurocents. However, we arrive at 39 eurocents by way of a higher retail price cap and a lower wholesale price cap, because this reflects the

Study [EN](#)

[Technical Issues on Roaming - Transparency, Technical Aspects and Data Overview Related to the Proposed Regulation on Roaming](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 26-01-2007

External author ETEPS NET

Alessandro Palmigiano (editor and project leader, Rosselli Foundation), Colin Blackman (INFO & Foresight, UK), Erik Bohlin (Chalmers University, Sweden), Simon Forge (SCF Associates, UK), Andrea Renda (CEPS, Belgium), Tanya Sammut-Bonnici (MCST, Malta) and Sabrina Vecchio Verderame (Rosselli Foundation)

Policy area Industry | Internal Market and Customs Union

Keyword communications | consumer information | consumption | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | mobile phone | regulation of telecommunications | single market | telecommunications policy | telephone charges | TRADE

Summary Executive summary

The object of the present briefing is to analyse some of the fundamental aspects of the legal proposal by the European Commission on the subject of roaming, COM (2006)382 on 12 July 2006, which proposed to modify the regulation of mobile communications, resulting in important reductions of roaming tariffs within the Community. The briefing examines the efficiency and concrete applicability of the measures introduced by the Regulation Proposal, which created the "Mechanism of the Domestic European Market" and the envisaged requirements of transparency and information on roaming costs charged by mobile network operators (MNOs).

The briefing consists of four sections, analysing the following issues: Transparency, Technical Infrastructure, Overview of Existing Data, and Feasibility of Technical Implementation. [...]

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[The Physiological and Environmental Effects of Non-Ionising Electromagnetic Radiation](#)

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 01-03-2001

External author Gerard Hyland (University of Warwick, UK)

Policy area Environment | Industry | Public Health

Keyword communications | deterioration of the environment | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ENVIRONMENT | environmental impact | environmental policy | health | health risk | mobile phone | non-ionising radiation | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This Study focuses upon an aspect of how living organisms and humans in particular can be adversely affected by highly coherent electromagnetic fields of technological origin, in a way that is not entertained or addressed by existing Safety Guidelines – namely, through the possibility of nonthermal, frequency-specific influences of an informational nature. Supporting evidence is presented, and attention drawn to a disturbing consistency between some of these influences and the nature of certain adverse health effects found amongst some exposed people. On the basis of a detailed analysis of the present situation, a number of recommendations are made to promote a higher degree of electromagnetic biocompatibility between these fields and the living human organism than currently obtains.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#)

[Digital Technology Evolution and its Impact on the EU Entertainment and Media Sectors](#)

Publication type Study

Date 17-07-2000

External author Teleport Sachsen-Anhalt GmbH (Germany) and iCons srl (Italy)

Policy area Culture | Industry

Keyword artistic creation | audiovisual communications policy | audiovisual industry | communications | culture and religion | digital technology | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | impact of information technology | information technology and data processing | Internet | mass media | mobile phone | new technology | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | technology and technical regulations

Study [EN](#)