



Press Release

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– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

## **Mobile Roaming Charges: EU Must Take the Right Decisions Now! INTUG and the Fair Roaming Group press for action on Roaming charges**

*A joint statement by INTUG and Europeans for Fair Roaming*

Over the last few days, the proposed new EU mobile roaming regulation has come before the European Parliament and the Council. While many of the proposed amendments to the regulation are going in the right direction, the price caps are still much too high and the EU is risking destroying the business of small operators wishing to enter the roaming market.

The International Telecommunications User Group INTUG ([intug.org](http://intug.org)) and Europeans for Fair Roaming ([FairRoaming.org](http://FairRoaming.org)) therefore demand that the European Parliament and the Council take the right decisions now. The retail price caps for mobile phone users must be set at lower levels than that currently proposed. The targets should be:

- No more than 11ct for calls made by 2014
- Free receiving of calls from 2014 onwards
- No more than 10ct/MB for data by 2014

Furthermore, INTUG and [FairRoaming.org](http://FairRoaming.org) warn against erecting high hurdles for market entrance and access to roaming services for small and virtual operators. Bengt Beier of Europeans for Fair Roaming stated: "If the new rules make it too hard for new and small operators to offer innovative roaming services, there will be no competition and roaming will remain as expensive as it is. And even worse, the existence of small operators and thousands of jobs could be threatened! The end users want lower prices for roaming and the new regulation has to deliver these."

Nick White of INTUG stated, "These are extremely important issues for business users. If the regulation fails to introduce lower price caps, new low-cost roaming services and the freedom of users to choose their roaming operators, European businesses will continue to be seriously hindered in their ability to introduce innovative and more efficient cross-border processes. The absence of an international market for mobile services with the obstruction of MVNOs, can only be overcome by some form of structural change in the mobile market. The current situation with unjustifiably high roaming charges, especially for data, is damaging Europe's competitive position and blocking investment in growth generating and job creating activities."

*Ends.*



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### **About INTUG**

The International Telecommunications User Group INTUG ([intug.org](http://intug.org)) is an international association of business users of telecommunications. With members and contacts in all five continents INTUG has a global presence and represents thousands of small, medium and large enterprises. In recent years, INTUG has lobbied successfully for tariff reductions, and for open and non-discriminatory access to infrastructure.

### **About Europeans for Fair Roaming**

“Europeans for Fair Roaming” ([fairroaming.org](http://fairroaming.org)) was started by citizens from all over Europe as a Facebook campaign and has since expanded to become a network bringing together 14 organisations with tens of thousands of members, thousands of citizens and 11 MEPs from across Europe. The network calls on all EU institutions to take steps to end the current unfair practice of mobile phone operators charging high roaming fees when you use your mobile phone in another EU state. Europeans for Fair Roaming is one of the leading stakeholders in the roaming debate and has been mentioned in the NY Times, TheParliament.com, EurActiv and other media.

### **Contact**

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