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Mr. Thue Janus Kristensen  
email: [thuejk@gmail.com](mailto:thuejk@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Kristensen,

Thank you for your e-mail of 17th July to Vice-President Ansip on non-roaming telecom rates to EEA countries. Vice-President Ansip has asked me to reply on his behalf.

In your mail you claim that the price your mobile operator applies to SMS and voice communications to other EEA countries constitute a barrier to the single market and ask whether the EU has any plans to regulate non-roaming mobile operator prices for calls/SMSes between EEA countries.

So far, tariffs for calls originating in the country of mobile subscription and terminating in another Member State (intra-EU international calls) have not been regulated at EU level.

Three years ago, the European Commission proposed to change this situation. Its proposal for a Telecoms Single Market (TSM) Regulation (COM(2013)627), adopted on 11 September 2013, included a provision whereby providers of electronic communications to the public should not apply tariffs for intra-Union mobile communications terminating in another Member State which were higher than the Eurotariffs for regulated voice and SMS roaming communications established in Regulation (EC) No 531/2012, unless objectively justified (Article 21 of the proposal). This proposed article also provided that tariffs for fixed intra-Union communications terminating in another Member State should not exceed tariffs for domestic long-distance communications.

The EU co-legislators, namely the European Parliament and Council, both rejected this provision of the Commission proposal and did not include it in the final text of the TSM Regulation of 25 November 2015. Consequently, intra-EU international calls are not regulated. I should however mention that there are increasingly alternative solutions for traditional telephone services which often provide less inexpensive means for communications. So called internet-based communications applications are becoming more popular and provide even possibilities to call usual telephone numbers by much lower costs than telecommunications providers. I hope you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Vesa Terava  
Head of Unit

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