

**Question for written answer E-002405/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Antonio López-Istúriz White (PPE)**

Subject: Current situation with respect to telephone roaming and the possible abolition thereof in the European Union

European telecommunications companies are losing a market of approximately 300 million users due to mobile roaming charges, according to a survey conducted of 28 000 citizens in the European Union which was published by the European Commission in February 2014.

According to the study, 94 % of Europeans limit their use of mobile phones whilst travelling outside of their home country in order to avoid high bills, whereas 28 % prefer to switch off their devices entirely. Only 8 % of the people surveyed said they used their mobile phones in exactly the same way, regardless of whether they were travelling or in their own country.

Because of roaming charges, the vast majority of European citizens are choosing to limit their telephone service, despite the harmful effect this can have, all the more so in a globalised and interconnected world that demands up-to-date information. Furthermore, this entails additional costs for millions of companies and a loss of income for developers of mobile applications, which has a knock-on effect on citizens and leads to job losses. As a result, is it possible, as is being announced, that roaming charges will be abolished within the next two years?