Fall in Roaming Charges after New Proposals by Harry Smith

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The proposals were backed by European Parliamentâ€™s industry committee, in which it was decided in a vote that took place in the morning on 28th February 2012, that users would be allowed to purchase roaming services while residing overseas. Hutchinson Whampoa which is the parent company of Three welcomed the vote and said that consumers would be benefitted by it. Deputy Chairman of Hutchison Whampoa, Christian Salbaing said, â€•We support the Commissionâ€™s efforts to reduce roaming prices. The committeeâ€™s proposed data caps will pave the way for greater competition and lower consumer prices. This proposal is a great result for smart-phone and mobile data users across Europe. We urge the Parliament to make these proposals a reality.â€•

There are several attempts that are being made to bring cross-border roaming charges in line with local prices by the year 2015. This vote was the latest step in this regard. The validity of the legislation passed currently about reducing charges for calls and texts is till June 2012. According to committee, roaming services should be retailed by operators from 1st March 2014 for stimulating competition. It should be allowed to customer by the operators to switch the network totally free of cost and intimate them about their new right. Another proposal of the committee is that MVNOs should be allowed to act as alternatives to operations at the time when users are living in some other country.

A cap of â‚¬0.25 per minute is proposed by the committee for outgoing calls. On the other hand, users will be able to receive incoming calls at â‚¬0.08. This proposal will be applicable from July 2012. Besides, the reduction of â‚¬0.15 for outgoing and â‚¬0.05 for incoming will be witnessed from July 2014. Moreover, the fall of prices from â‚¬0.08 to â‚¬0.05 will also take place between 2012 and 2014. On the other hand, â‚¬0.50 per MB data roaming charges will slope from July 2012 and â‚¬0.20 from July 2014. In addition, fall can be witnessed in the wholesale prices also. The wholesale call charges will decrease from â‚¬0.11 per minute to â‚¬0.05 between 2012 and 2014. The fall of wholesale text charges will remain â‚¬0.08 to â‚¬0.05 between 2012 and 2014 and SMS will be from â‚¬0.03 to â‚¬0.01. In that period, wholesale charges of data roaming will be sloped from â‚¬0.25 per MB to â‚¬0.05 per MB.

The committee report was written by Angelika Niebler who said, â€•We need to stimulate real competition among mobile operators and guarantee fair roaming prices for EU consumers who are on holiday or travelling for work.â€•

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