Media Release - 11 June 2010

Consumers to benefit further from reduced mobile roaming rates while abroad

The Commission for Communication Regulation (ComReg) today published an Information Notice showing the trend of international roaming charges for the period 1 April, 2009 – 31 December, 2009. Data provided by Irish mobile operators indicates a high level of compliance with the EU-wide Roaming Regulation.

The report shows how Irish consumers continue to benefit from reductions in mobile roaming prices including reduced prices to make and receive calls, and to send texts while travelling in the EU.

Commencing 1 July 2010, further reductions in costs for voice calls ("Eurotariff") will benefit Irish consumers when travelling in the EU:

- the cost of making a call will reduce from 0.53 cent to 0.47 cent per minute (incl. VAT);
- the price of receiving a call will reduce from 0.23 cent to 0.18 cent per minute (incl. VAT);
- no charge for consumers to receive a voicemail message.

In addition, a new measure introduced as part of the Roaming Regulation, means that consumers will be opted into a €60.50 (incl. VAT) limit of spend for data while roaming in the EU. Consumers can change this limit if they wish. ComReg welcomes this initiative, designed to reduce ' bill shock', particularly as the most recent ComReg statistics on data roaming in the EU show that volumes of retail roaming data traffic have grown strongly over the reported periods - during 2009, volumes grew by 52%.

To further promote transparency for consumers while roaming, ComReg has provided an interactive price comparison website www.callcosts.ie/roaming. This website provides consumers with information about mobile roaming and a mobile roaming calculator which compares the cost of their planned roaming usage on the "Eurotariff" and any other roaming plan that their mobile operator may offer.

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