



Media Release - 07 February 2008

International roaming charges reduced

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published information showing the trend of international roaming charges for the period April to September 2007. The EU Roaming Regulation came into effect at end August 2007. The Regulation required mobile service providers to offer all customers a “Eurotariff” with a price ceiling by end August 2007. This was implemented by all Irish mobile service providers on or before the required date.

The report on roaming services price analysis indicates that for all international calls, the average charged by Irish mobile service providers is lower than that charged by operators in other Member States. The price for a text message sent when roaming, while at the same level as the average charged by operators in other Member States is considerably higher than national texts. Charges for text messages are not covered by the Regulation but the EU Commission has stated that it will decide whether the Regulation should be extended to cover messaging and data roaming, depending on developments in the market.

ComReg welcomes evidence of reduced costs for Irish consumers when making and receiving calls while travelling in the EU. It also welcomes recent announcements from certain operators of reductions in wholesale rates for data roaming. ComReg notes, however, that charges for data-based services including texts remain high relative to domestic rates, and calls on Irish operators to offer better value to their customers for these services. ComReg also observes that generally roaming charges are calculated per minute rather than per second, and questions the validity of this methodology, which has the effect of charging users for unused service portions.

ComReg will publish a further report in July 2008.

ENDS

Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie