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ERG Report on International Roaming Charges

The European Regulators Group ('ERG') today published the results of its first comprehensive data collection on charges for international roaming when consumers use their mobile phone abroad. The data relates to the period April to September 2007 and therefore mostly relates to the period before the EU Regulation on international roaming came into effect.

The main effects of this regulation will not be clear until the results of the next data collection (covering the period up to March 2008) are available. However early effects are already evident. Many roaming charges show a clear reduction between the April to June period and the July to September period. For example, between these two periods;

- The average retail charge across Europe for voice roaming calls made reduced from €0.69 to €0.62 per minute billed
- The corresponding average retail charge for voice roaming calls received reduced from €0.34 to €0.30 per minute billed

ERG plans to repeat the data collection at 6 month intervals so that the evolution of charges can be measured. This will provide the strongest possible evidence base for the Commission's review of the Roaming Regulation at the end of this year.

The data collection has been extensive and deals with voice, SMS and data roaming offered to customers of more than 150 of European network operators and service providers, across countries both within and outside the European Economic Area.

Separately national regulatory authorities have confirmed good compliance with the transparency obligations of the Regulation, for example in relation to tariff options available to consumers and real-time access to personalised tariff information.

ERG is also reissuing today its Guidelines, which are complementary to the provisions set out in the Regulation, and are not presented as a legal interpretation of those provisions. This consolidates and updates the two sets of Guidelines issued in July and August 2007."

Ends



ERG Press release

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The European Regulators Group (ERG) was created to act as an advisory group to help the European Commission develop the internal market for electronic communications and services and ensure the consistent application of the regulatory Framework. The ERG takes into account in its work the objectives given to NRAs in Article 8 of the Framework Directive (2002/21/EC) to promote competition, contribute to the development of the internal market and promote the interests of EU citizens.

The ERG consists of European National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). Its full members are the twenty-seven EU Member States whilst the four EFTA States (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and three EU Accession/Candidate States (Turkey, Croatia and Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia) participate as observers.

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