Dear Ministers,

On 4th December 2017, at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, Estonian Minister Urve Palo encouraged you to swiftly contribute and develop a Council position on the proposals made by the European Parliament on the European Electronic Communications Code concerning intra-EU calls and a Public Alert System. She underlined that “*they both address serious concerns for our citizens*."

We believe Minister Palo is absolutely right and we would like to encourage you to adopt a positive Council response to the Parliament’s proposal on intra-EU calls as soon as possible.

The end of roaming surcharges in the EU is a success story. Surveys show[[1]](#footnote-1) that consumers are responding positively to the latest reform and increasingly using their mobile phones while they travel across border without fear of bill shock.

But the Single Market of telecommunications services has not been completed. Today, it is often prohibitive for your citizens to call or text to another EU country while at home, creating the absurd paradox that it is more reasonable for them to travel across a border to place that call or send that text.

Establishing a Single Market for calling and texting will be beneficial for businesses, as they will be able to communicate more easily with citizens from other EU Member States. It will also help European telecom companies counter increased competition from alternative online services (so-called OTTs). Consumers consistently prefer traditional services over online alternatives due to their widespread interoperability and assured quality but are too often discouraged from using them due to prohibitive prices.

According to the European Regulators of Electronic Communications, the real cost for mobile operators to place an intra-EU call, based on termination rates, is on average one cent or less per minute, while your citizens are faced with retail prices that are hundreds or even thousands of times higher than national rates. This situation is unjustified, as demonstrated by the European Commission’s original Impact Assessment to the 2013 Telecom Single Market proposal (Regulation 2120/2015) and every other study undertaken since then.

It is important to know that the Parliament’s proposal does not imply that intra-EU telecom services should be free, and it does not fix a common price across the EU. In addition, in order to ensure operators do not incur any losses, our proposal ensures that telecom operators can always recuperate any real additional costs associated to these services.

We strongly encourage you to work towards a positive Council position as soon as possible so we can conclude this part of negotiations and adopt this measure.

We remain, Ministers,

Yours faithfully,

Dita Charanzová, Vice Chair

IMCO EECC Rapporteur, ALDE Czech Republic

Marlene Mizzi

IMCO EECC Shadow Rapporteur, S&D Malta

Jiří Maštálka

IMCO EECC Shadow Rapporteur, GUE/NGL Czech Republic

Julia Reda

IMCO EECC Shadow Rapporteur, Verts/EFA Germany

Kaja Kallas

ITRE EECC Shadow Rapporteur, ALDE, Estonia

Michel Reimon

ITRE EECC Shadow Rapporteur, The Greens/EFA, Austria

Viviane Reding

Member, EPP, Luxembourg

1. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\_IP-17-3241\_en.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)