

GIGAEurope position on Roaming Regulation Trilogue

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GIGAEurope represents private investors in 5G networks and gigabit infrastructure. Our members entered the EU market as owners and operators of challenger networks to the national telecommunications incumbents. In the context of the Roaming Regulation, our members are both MNOs and MVNOs in their markets. Over more than two decades, GIGAEurope members collectively invested billions of euros that unleashed a constant cycle of network innovation. This resulted in accelerated roll-out and coverage of successive generations of mobile technology, and to sustainable competition between various technologies in fixed Very High Capacity Networks (cable Eurodocsis 3.1, FttC, FttB, FttH). European consumers and businesses profit from this market dynamic that results in falling prices for mobile telecommunications services, higher broadband capacity and constantly increasing internet access speeds towards Gigabit.

GIGAEurope would like to recall that the EIB identified a **connectivity investment challenge** of attracting €42 billion annually. Private infrastructure investment will continue to play a predominant role in meeting this challenge.

A sound and predictable European regulatory framework that enables ROI are crucial for European network operators to attract private capital. GIGAEurope would therefore like to express its concerns regarding the current discussions on the **review of the roaming regulation** which may introduce new uncertainty for investors.

We are particularly concerned about the risk of new unjustified price regulation being introduced by the European Parliament's amendments that would let **intra-EU communications** (SMS, voice calls) **revenues evaporate** by levelling maximum tariffs with domestic tariffs. This amendment changes the current regulation on intra EU communications (in force until May 2024) without any prior market analysis, impact assessment or stakeholder consultation. It finds no ground in evaluation reports from European telecoms authorities and the Commission that conclude that this market is competitive and that modification of the current rules is unfeasible. It should be noted that existing legislation already has the aim to even out the differences in the internal market, however with a more proportionate approach on timing of that adaptation.

GIGAEurope therefore believes that more **efforts should first be devoted to assessing the implementation of the EECC (Article 75)**. In fact, any customer price benefit would only be marginal in the view of the competitive (voice and messaging) alternatives existent in the sector, whilst extracting revenues that are crucial for the larger goal of an inclusive digital transformation. The prospect of an unstable regulatory environment around industry revenue represents a regulatory risk premium driving up the cost of private capital, which makes the 5G investment case for accelerating availability of 5G networks more difficult for all European operators and in all EU Member States.



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We therefore call on the Commission to defend its legislative proposal and on Member States **not to support the amendment related to intra-EU communications (new Article 5a)** and **adopt a balanced view on preserving key industry value** now in order to generate real significant customer and business value towards 2030, in line with the objectives of the EU's overall digital strategy.

GIGAEurope would be happy to meet with you to elaborate on the above, as we believe this concerns a key industry issue at a crucial cross roads on our common path to the digital decade.
