

Press Release
ERG 15 Plenary in Brussels, 24. – 25.11.2005

European Telecoms Regulators reinforce their efforts to bring down the cost of using mobile phones abroad

30 November 2005

In its meeting in Brussels, 24.11.2005 – 25.11.2005, the European Regulators Group (ERG) resolved to reinforce its efforts to increase consumer awareness of the costs involved in making and receiving calls when using a mobile phone abroad. The assembled group of national regulators agreed that increased consumer awareness and greater transparency in call charges can be an effective means of bringing down the cost of international roaming.

All participants subsequently agreed to provide consumers in each member state with information on how much it costs to roam abroad with a mobile phone, and will offer advice on how to keep costs down. The national websites will complement the European Commission's information website on international roaming retail prices which can be found at http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/roaming/index_en.htm.

In addition, national regulators will assess the viability of requiring mobile operators to send consumers an SMS message with information on roaming prices when entering a country. The ERG will monitor national regulators' progress in increasing consumer awareness and promoting greater transparency in pricing at future meetings. The next ERG plenary meeting is scheduled for February 2006.

2006 Work Programme and Common Position in Remedies

Separately, the ERG also agreed its programme of activity for 2006. Alongside its work on international roaming, another priority will be to assist the European Commission with its review of the regulatory framework for electronic communications and services. This will include individual discussions on regulation in next generation fixed-line networks, broadband and Voice over IP.

The ERG has also agreed to publish a revised version of its work on application of remedies for public consultation. The remedies document and the Work Programme 2006 will be published on the ERG website: <http://erg.eu.int> in due course.