

Ivaylo Moskovski
Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and
Communications
Dyakon Ignatiy str 9, 1000
Sofia
Bulgaria

1 June 2018

Re: the European Electronic Communications Code (EECC) – Intra-EU Calls

Dear Minister, *Stimul Ma. Moskovski!*

BusinessEurope supports the European Union's intention of creating a competitive and investment-friendly framework to boost the roll-out of high capacity networks in Europe. As the backbone of Europe's digital economy, digital infrastructure is vital for the functioning of new technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence, the Internet of Things and the Industrial Internet. If delivered correctly, these innovations have the ability to improve Europe's economic and societal conditions.

That is why BusinessEurope supports the intention of recasting the existing framework for electronic communications through the proposal for a European Electronic Communications Code (EECC). While trilogues have headed in the right direction and a final agreement looked likely before the Summer break, we are now concerned negotiations will stall due to the ongoing intra-EU call (Article 92a) debate.

As you know, Parliament aims to cap intra-EU tariffs on calls between Member States at domestic levels. Yet this was added after Council passed its general approach. Therefore, little discussion was carried out on the topic and the Commission's initial impact assessment did not cover it to inform the current debate.

These implications are wider than the telecommunications industry and impact the wider challenge of enabling investment in large-scale 5G roll-out for innovative services and applications to serve European consumers and businesses. Compatibility of provisions on tariff capping with the objective of fostering investment as well as far-reaching implications of selective price regulation in principle must be fully assessed. Further to this, in adherence of better regulation principles, substantive additional provisions, such as price capping, should require an impact assessment.

BusinessEurope stands ready to discuss these matters further with you.

Yours sincerely,


Markus J. Beyrer
Director General