



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

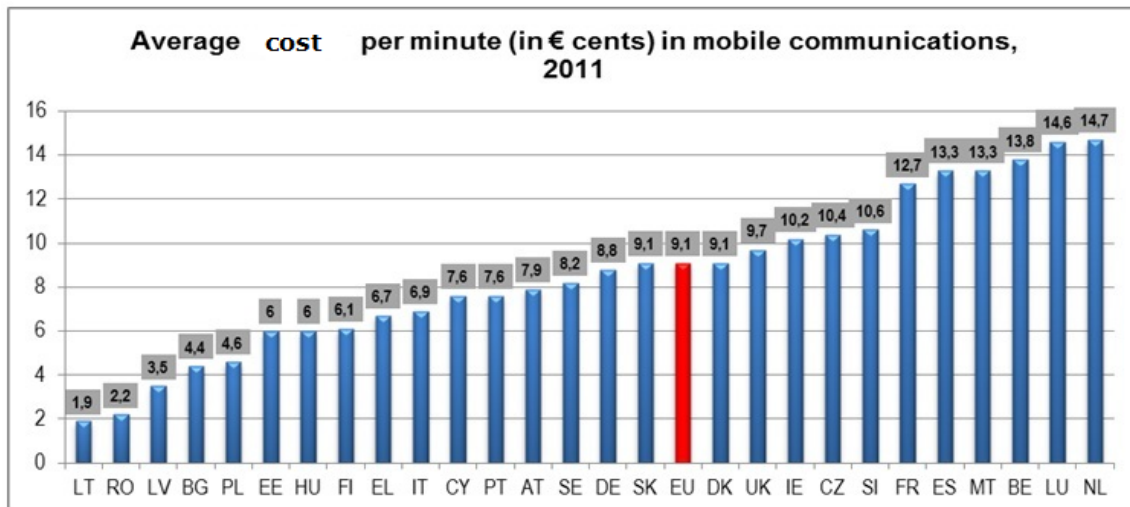
Brussels, 6 August 2013

774% difference in phone call prices across the EU

Mobile users across the European Union face huge price differences for the same services. The biggest price difference is in domestic mobile calls – a 774% difference between Lithuania, the cheapest country, and Netherlands, the most expensive. These price differences cannot be explained by differences in quality, differences in the cost to provide the service, or by differences between countries in consumer purchasing power.

European Commission Vice President Neelie Kroes said: *"As these numbers clearly show, the 28 national telecoms markets in Europe today are not benefitting consumers like a single market would. It is critical for the whole EU to move quickly to build a real single market to achieve a truly connected continent."*

Average cost per minute (in € cents) in mobile communications

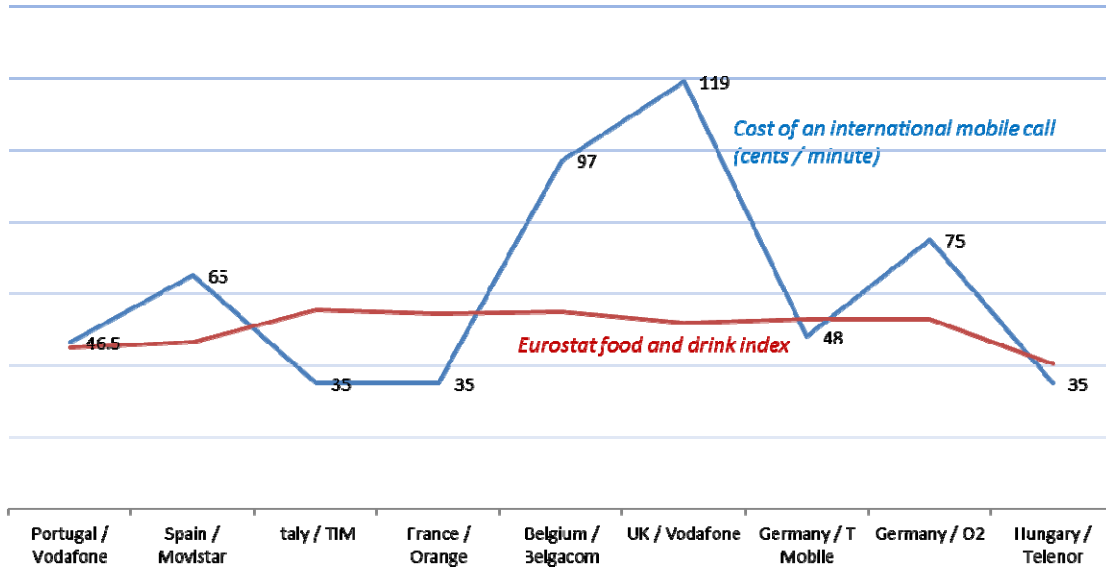


Source: Digital Agenda Scoreboard 2012

There are much smaller price differentials in other categories of basic goods and services in the European single market. For example a litre of milk can be bought for between €0.69 and €0.99 wherever they are in the EU, a price difference of 43%. An occasional purchase like an iPad is subject to only an 11% price difference across the EU.

The EU is a single market. So why do call costs vary so much?

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Examples of prices of international mobile calls for different operators (per minute)

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Country	Operator	Price of international mobile calls
Portugal	Vodafone	€0.465
Spain	Movistar	€0.65
Italy	TIM	€0.35
France	Orange	€0.35
Belgium	Belgacom	€0.97
UK	Vodafone	€1.19
Germany	T-mobile	€0.48
Germany	O2	€0.75
Hungary	Telenor	€0.35

In September, Vice President Neelie Kroes will present a new package aimed at strengthening the Telecoms single market.

Useful links

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[Neelie Kroes](#): Follow Neelie on [Twitter](#)

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