

MOBILE ROAMING INITIATIVES IN THE ECTEL MEMBER STATES

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ECTEL MEMBER STATES – A SINGLE ICT SPACE

- ECTEL Regional Telecommunications Authority established by Treaty
- **o** 5 Member States
 - Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- ECTEL's purpose is to promote
 - open entry and competition in telecoms
 - harmonised policies on a regional level for telecoms
- Harmonized regulatory framework
 - licensing, price regulation, interconnection, universal service, spectrum management
- National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions



CURRENT SITUATION IN THE ECTEL STATES

- Same two major telecom operators in each Member State – Cable & Wireless (FLOW and Digicel)
- Roaming rates and terms are unregulated
- Roaming services are largely "on-net"
- One operator, Digicel offers " Roam Like You Are Home" service
- The other operator, Cable & Wireless charges for roaming and offers various prepaid and postpaid roaming packages.

ECTEL MEMBER STATES – POLICY ON ROAMING

- In line with the Treaty mandates to promote open entry, competition in telecoms, haromonised policies and increased service penetration:
 - ECTEL Council of Ministers approved a policy to eliminate roaming rates on voice and data in the Member States.
- ITU approved a request for technical assistance from ECTEL and has engaged a consultant to develop a draft Roaming Bill and Regulations for regulating roaming in the Member States.
- Draft Bill will be submitted to public consultation after which final Bill will be submitted to Member States for promulgation

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MAJOR PROVISIONS OF DRAFT ROAMING BILL FOR ECTEL STATES

- Wholesale rates to be regulated via price cap.
- Retail rates to be regulated using 'Rome like you are home" option.
- Customers to be made aware of inadvertent roaming on networks of providers outside the ECTEL Member States.
- Home country provider to notify customer of emergency numbers in visitor country.



PROVISIONS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR DRAFT ROAMING BILL

oPermanent roaming vs Fair use policy

o National roaming

- in emergencies
- for new entrants

o Roaming and number portability

oRoaming and IOTs



RECENT ECTEL PUBLICATIONS

- The 2015 Annual Electronic Communications Sector Review
- 2015 Broadband access and use in the ECTEL Member States
- Both are available on our website
 - <u>www.ectel.int</u>
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