MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE REDUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL ROAMING TARIFFS BETWEEN LITHUANIA AND GEORGIA

2016 -09 -23 Nr. ND-12

The Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania and the Georgian National Communications Commission (hereinafter to be referred to as the "Parties"), and the representatives of the Lithuanian and Georgian telecommunication operators: UAB "Bitė Lietuva", UAB "Omnitel", UAB "Tele2" and "Magticom" Ltd, "Geocell" Ltd, "Mobitel" Ltd (hereinafter – "operators"),

have agreed on the following:

The current level of roaming tariffs is the subject of concern to both Parties, who confirm their desire to act for the benefit of the citizens of both countries. Lower prices for international mobile roaming services will enhance business and tourism as well as communication between the people of Lithuania and Georgia.

Taking into account ITU-T Recommendation D.98 "Charging in international mobile roaming service" and Recommendation of the OECD Council C(2012)7 on International Mobile Roaming Services, the Parties have confirmed their readiness to make all efforts to reduce the level of existing roaming tariffs for the ultimate benefit of end users in both countries.

Implementing the above-mentioned recommendation of International Telecommunication Union and noting undergoing effective cooperation between Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) countries, Parties have confirmed their willingness to actively support the implementation of the above-mentioned tasks and actively cooperate in the field.

Representatives of the Lithuanian and Georgian telecommunication operators have agreed on the following set of measures regarding roaming services:

- the level of wholesale roaming tariffs for all roaming services (voice, SMS and data) between Lithuanian and Georgian operators should be reduced by glide path which will be reviewed on yearly basis; the final goal should be to align wholesale roaming tariffs in line with the tariffs referred in Regulation (EU) No 531/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2012 on roaming on public mobile communications networks within the Union by December 31, 2022 taking into account that the average per-minute charge at wholesale level should take account of the different elements involved in the making of all roaming call, in particular the cost of originating and terminating calls over mobile networks and including overheads, signalling and transit;
- accordingly, in order to protect customers from paying excessive prices for using roaming services, the level of retail roaming tariffs shall be reduced following the wholesale reductions;
- every roaming provider shall charge its roaming partner for the provision of roaming call on a per-second basis;
- in order to avoid bill shocks and to safeguard the interests of customers, roaming providers
 are encouraged to define one or more maximum financial and/or volume limits for their
 outstanding charges for data roaming services;
- the visited network operators shall ensure their counterparts (roaming providers) to provide with the information that is necessary to allow the roaming provider to monitor its customers' usage on a near real-time basis in order to implement maximum financial and/or volume limits for roaming usage for the purpose of avoiding bill shocks, but does not violate the operator company's standards of the privacy policy on its informational systems;
- operators will continue to negotiate on a mutual confidentiality basis in order to conclude bilateral agreements on the above-mentioned measures and agree on their effective dates;
- the negotiations should be concluded no later than December 1, 2016 and the agreement implementation shall start no later than March 1, 2017;
- the operators should inform their regulatory authorities about the effects of the negotiations;

 the regulators can issue recommendations on the measures regarding roaming services for their operators respectively within the framework of their legislation, regulations and this MoU.

During the above-mentioned negotiations, the wholesale roaming tariffs in the European Union can be considered as relevant reference level.

Signed on 20 SEPTEMBER 2016 in two equally valid counterparts, each in the English language. The RRT shall keep one counterpart of each and the GNCC shall keep another counterpart. The RRT shall pass over the signed copies of this MoU to the undersigned Lithuanian mobile operators, one copy to each operator. The GNCC shall pass over the signed copies of this MoU to the undersigned Georgian mobile operators, one copy to each operator.

For the Georgian National Communications
Commission

For the Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania

Vakhtang Abashidze

Feliksas Dobrovolskis

"Magticom" Ltd

UAB "Bite Lietuva"

"Geocell" Ltd

UAB "Omnitel"

"Mobitel" Ltd.

UAB/"Tele2"