

MOBILE ROAMING INITIATIVES IN THE ECTEL MEMBER STATES

IMR ROUNDTABLE, GENEVA SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Cheryl Hector

Director, Economics and Finance

ECTEL

 ${\bf chector} @{\bf ectel.int} \\$

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

ECTEL 2012



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

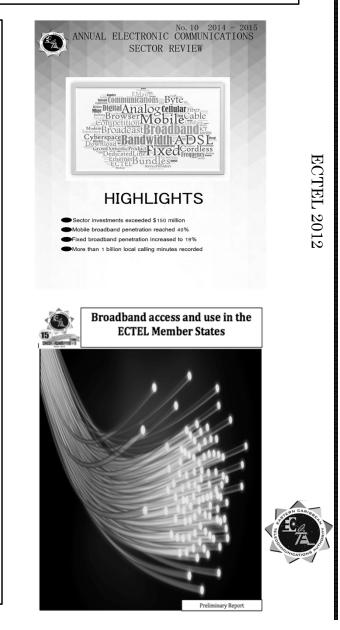
o Roaming and number portability

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>
- Contact info: Cheryl Hector (<u>chector@ectel.int</u>)













ECTEL 2012 8