

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

**TRAI issues Consultation Paper on  
“Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”**

**New Delhi, 08.11.2019** - The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has today issued the Consultation Paper on “Review of Interconnection Usage Charges”. It is focused on review of the existing regulatory regime for International Termination Charges (ITC).

1. Interconnection between two public telecommunication networks allows consumers of one service provider to communicate with consumers of the other service provider. The principle regulation for Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC) of voice calls was notified by the Authority in the year 2003. In respect of the termination charge for international incoming call, the last amendment to the IUC Regulation was carried out in the year 2018. This amendment brought down the termination charge for international incoming call to wireline and wireless networks to Rs.0.30 per minute w.e.f. 01.02.2018.

2. While notifying the last amendment, the Authority noted that it shall closely monitor the trends and patterns of International Long Distance (ILD) voice traffic in the country. The Authority, also noted that, if it deems necessary, may review International Termination Charge (ITC) from time to time.

3. In view of the above, the Authority has been continuously monitoring the developments in the telecommunications market, and trends in incoming and outgoing ILD voice traffic volume. While analysing, the Authority noted that the characteristics of the telecommunications market in India as well as



globally is changing very fast. The domestic market composition is changing from voice centric to data centric, and the tariff offerings are changing from pricing of individual products like voice, data, messages etc. to bundled offers comprising of voice, data, and messages together. Similarly, in case of international roaming also, tariff packages for bundles comprising of certain pre-fixed quantity of incoming and outgoing voice calls, data, and messages are becoming popular. Further to analyse the trends in incoming and outgoing ILD voice traffic volume, from time to time, the Authority collected the data relating to international incoming and outgoing voice traffic through carrier route. The analysis of this data indicates that the rate of decline of international incoming voice traffic through carrier route has reduced after the revision of ITC rates in 2018.

4. With this background, the present Consultation Paper (CP) embarks on the review of the existing regulatory regime for International Termination Charges (ITC).

5. The Consultation Paper has been placed on TRAI's website [www.traai.gov.in](http://www.traai.gov.in). Written comments on the Consultation Paper are invited from the stakeholders by 09.12.2019 and counter-comments, if any, by 23.12.2019.

6. The comments and counter-comments may be sent, preferably in electronic form at [sksinghal@traai.gov.in](mailto:sksinghal@traai.gov.in) with a copy to [interconnection.traai@gmail.com](mailto:interconnection.traai@gmail.com). For any clarification/information, Shri S.K.Singhal, Advisor (BB&PA) may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-11-23221509.



**(U.K. Srivastava)**

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