



Interconnection TRAI <interconnection.trai@gmail.com>

"Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) vrs Bill and Keep policy in telecom sector"

1 message

Raghav Sharma <raghav.sharma141997@gmail.com>

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2nd November,2019

To

The Chairman,
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India,
Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan Next to
Zakir Hussain College,
Jawaharlal Nehru Marg (Old [Minto Road](#))
[New Delhi: 110 002](#)

Sub: "Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC)
vrs Bill and Keep policy in telecom sector"

Dear Sir,

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), in the paper issued in October, 2019 sought stakeholder views on the need to "revise the applicable January 2020 date for implementing the BAK (bill and keep) or zero-termination charge regime," and parameters that need to be adopted to set an alternate date.

Many stakeholders supporting continuance of IUC want the TRAI to defer implementing the zero-IUC regime, which they argue will ensure that the financially struggling telco stands to receive some revenue from interconnect fees in 2020, compared with a scenario of no

revenue on this account from January 2020 boosted the stock.

A deferment of the zero-IUC regime means that till the voice traffic flow turns, both Airtel and Vodafone Idea would still receive some IUC payments, which would go down in each successive quarter. This argument smells extortion and completely anti-consumer move. The TRAI should not fall in the trap being made to fool the consumers.

We request you to introduce the Bill and keep policy as decided by TRAI in 2017 and should not defer the implementation process. At present, interconnect charge is paid by the call-originating telco to the destination operator. But under the proposed BAK system, which is to take effect from next January, the call-originating telco, which also bills the user, would keep the money, thus making it a zero-IUC regime.

Thanking you

With regards

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Cc

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister,
Ministry of Communications & IT, Department
of Telecommunications, 20, Sanchar Bhawan,
[Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001](#)

Shri (Dr) P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to
the Prime Minister, Government of [India](#),
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