



Cost of calls to EU countries has ‘plummeted’, from today

A new EU regulation has come into force, and affects the UK (for the time being), today.

This is a provision of the **EU Electronic Communications Code**, which applies to all EEA countries (see the list in [the Ofcom advice](#)).

The regulation of **Intra-EU communications** demands that the cost of calls (excluding VAT) between EEA countries be capped at €0.19 per minute and the cost of text messages at €0.06.

Applying the specific regulations regarding conversion and adding VAT gives VAT-inclusive cap rates of **19p per minute** for calls and **6p** for a text message.

Ofcom has published advice on this at - [New price caps for EU calls and texts](#).

Leading providers previously charged for calls at the following rates:

	ppm (including VAT)	
<u>Landlines</u>		
BT	85p	
Virgin Media	51p	(87.83p to mobiles)
Talk Talk	30p	
Sky Talk	19p	(applied from 1 May)
<u>Mobiles</u>		
EE	19p	(applied from 8 May)
Vodafone pay monthly	£1.50	(drop to 19p on 15 May announced)
Vodafone PAYG	£1.00	
O2	£1.50	
Three	46p	
Virgin Mobile	£1.20	

We understand that all those listed above have dropped their rates to 19p from today.

The maximum (of those listed) is a 87% price drop.

The UK government has pledged that, post Brexit, the UK will continue to transpose the EEC into national law.

The **fair telecoms campaign** supports adoption of this regulation, favouring calls within the EU, along with those previously imposed to prohibit the roaming charges within the bloc.

We note that some political campaigners oppose regulations that strengthen ties to neighbouring countries, over those which are more remote!

Another EU regulation in place, but not being enforced

The second Payment Services Directive came into force on 13 January 2018 (see [news release](#)).

This caps the amount of the premium charge passed on from a call to any premium rate number at £40 (excluding VAT).

We see many examples of this being breached, and no specific regulation demanding compliance by telephone companies. See [one recent example](#). Please get in touch for further information.