

Russia to Scrap Domestic Roaming Fees in 2019

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Igor Generalov / TASS

After years of fits and starts, it looks like domestic roaming fees will soon be a thing of the past in Russia, a country that spans 11 time zones.

Russia's four largest mobile operators vowed to scrap domestic roaming fees for incoming calls in the fall of 2018 following a Federal Antimonopoly Service investigation.

New measures that President Vladimir Putin [signed](#) into law Thursday require telecom operators to set the same fees for cell phone users who travel outside their "home" region.

Related article: [Ministry Proposes End to Roaming Charges](#)

The changes will take effect on June 1, 2019.

The flat fees are expected to help Russians save 36 billion rubles (\$520 million) in 2019 alone, one of the law's co-authors, Sergei Mironov, estimated when the State Duma [passed](#) the measure on Dec. 19.

"This will allow people who speak with their relatives, friends and colleagues living in other Russian regions to save money," Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin [said](#) at the time.

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