

**From:** Jonathan Hill <...@....eu>  
**To:** Cristian Secara <...@....ro>  
**Date:** Tue, 10 Apr 2012 13:02:27 +0000  
**Subject:** RE: about a limitation in mobile communications technology that leads to language discrimination

Dear Mr Secara,

Thank you again for your messages and phone call. I apologise that we were not able to reply to you earlier.

I do not think I can add much to the comments made by my colleague, Mrs Bucher, which you included in your file. The European Union's room for manoeuvre is very limited in this field for two reasons. First, the EU's Member States have decided that language policy and linguistic diversity should remain primarily in their hands; the EU thus has no power to regulate these areas. It is true that the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees non-discrimination on linguistic and cultural grounds, but the Charter only applies to Member States when they are applying EU law; it cannot apply to mobile-phone operators. Second, as my colleague noted, mobile operators are free to organise their services as they see fit, provided they respect EU law. Although the EU does regulate aspects of the mobile communications market, including the prices for certain services, its role does not extend to the problems related to SMS pricing that you have raised.

Therefore, for all these reasons, the EU, with its current powers, is not able to intervene. I suspect the best answer to your problem lies in technology: improvements to communications software may help to remove any 'discrimination' between languages.

Best regards,

Jonathan Hill  
Member of Cabinet of Ms Androulla Vassiliou  
Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism & Youth  
European Commission

BERL 10/124  
Brussels 1049  
Tel [...]  
Mob [...]  
...@....eu

-----Original Message-----

From: Cristian Secara [mailto:...@....ro]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 2:56 PM  
To: HILL Jonathan (CAB-VASSILIOU)  
Subject: Fw: about a limitation in mobile communications technology that leads to language discrimination

Hello,

Below is the e-mail I have sent in October 2011. I just want to know if there is any follow-up on it.

[...]