

SECTION 4.4

PUBLIC NETWORK INTERCONNECTION

4.4.1 – INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENTS and UNBUNDLED LOCAL LOOP

Table 9. Number of interconnection agreements in place for call termination of fixed network

| | B | DK | D | EL | E | F | IRL | I | L | NL | A | P | FIN | S | UK |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|---|----|----|---|-----|----|-----|
| Mobile-to-fixed | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 66 | 3 | 1 | 117 | 8 | 5 |
| Fixed-to-fixed | 16 | 36 | 86 | 0 | 13 | 85 | 12 | 22 | 1 | | 33 | 1 | | 17 | 256 |
| Mobile-to-mobile | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 0 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 8 |

Figures refer to the interconnection agreements with the incumbents' networks.

The number of interconnection agreements in place depends on the number of licensed/authorised operators for public network and public voice telephony (local and national). Figures are not strictly comparable between Member States, since the number of local operators varies considerably between countries depending on the division of the national territory into local areas.

For The Netherlands, separate information for the different categories of interconnection is not available.

Fixed-to-fixed interconnection agreement for Portugal refers to fixed complementary services.

In Finland the number of fixed-to-fixed I/C agreements includes the mobile-to-fixed I/C agreements.

Source: National Regulatory Authorities (August 1999).

Table 10. Availability of unbundled local loop

| B | DK | D | EL | E | F | IRL | I | L | NL | A | P | FIN | S | UK |
|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|
| no | yes | yes | no | yes | no | no | no | no | yes | yes | no | yes | no | no |

4.4.2 – FIXED-TO-FIXED INTERCONNECTION CHARGES

The following charts show the per minute interconnection charges for fixed call termination on a fixed network, based on a 3 minute call duration at peak rate as set out in the update to Annex II to the Commission Recommendation 98/195/EC on interconnection pricing in a liberalized telecommunications market.

Figures refer to the interconnection charges actually in place that can be approved by the NRA or simply agreed between operators if the legal framework does not require approval by the NRA.

Charts show the absolute value of the interconnection charges (in EUR/cents) and the positive percentage deviations from the upper limit of the “1999 best practice recommendation on interconnection charges”:

- **0.5 - 1.0** EUR/cents per minute for local interconnection
- **0.8 - 1.6** EUR/cents per minute for single transit interconnection
- **1.5 - 2.3** EUR/cents per minute for double transit interconnection

In Germany the 4 price zones, which are defined by distance, do not correspond on a 1:1 basis to the 3 bands of the best practice (local, single and double transit), which are defined in technical terms.

For Greece only mobile-to-fixed interconnection charges are available (see section 5.4.3).

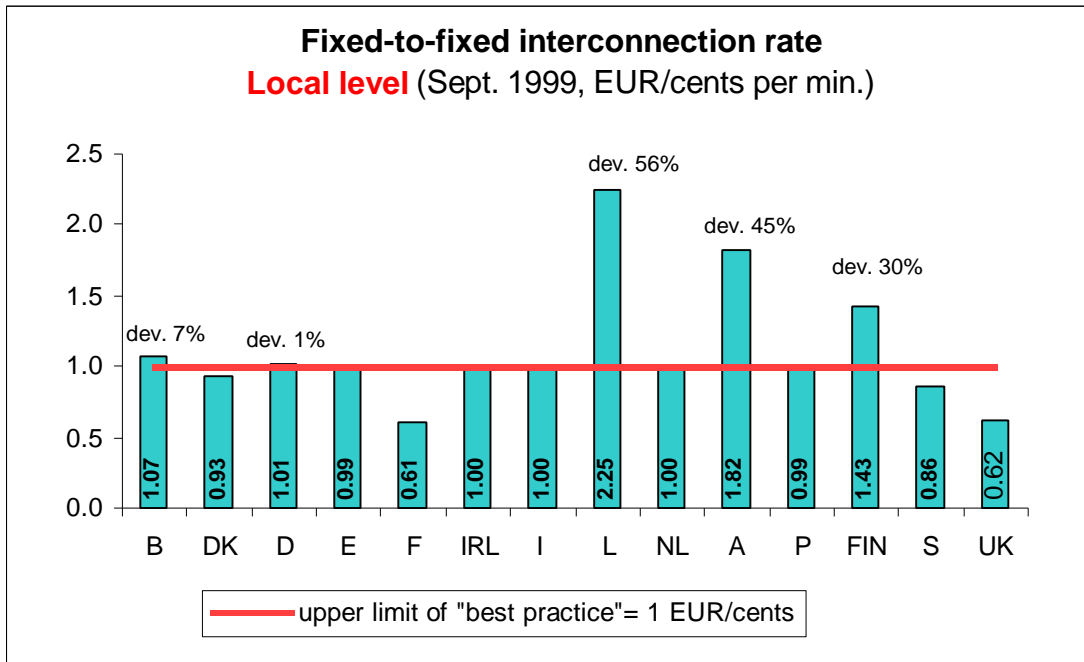
The figure for the UK also includes the product management and the policy and planning costs.

For Portugal fixed-to-fixed I/C charges, approved by the NRA, will become effective by January 2000.

In Luxembourg there is no distinction between local and domestic long-distance calls.

The data presented below is taken from National Regulatory Authorities and gives the position at 1 September 1999.

Chart 49



In Luxembourg, Austria and Finland, the lowest interconnection charge covers interconnection at a local or a single transit level

Chart 50

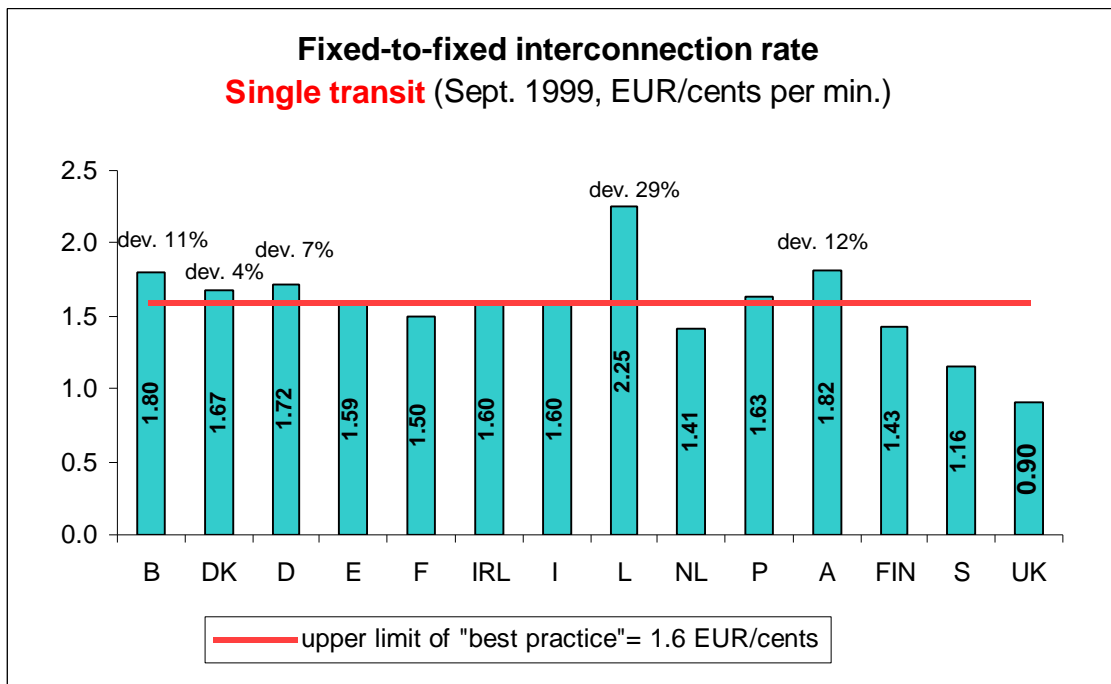
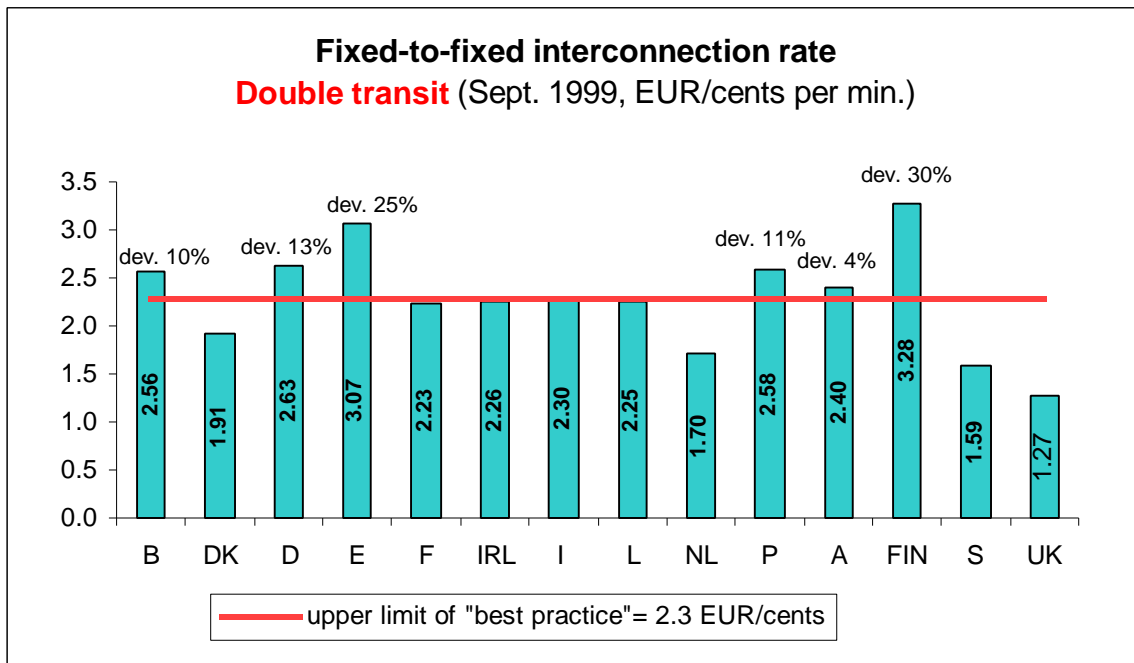


Chart 51



(*) The double transit rate includes a distance component for links of >200km.

In Finland, lower interconnection charges are applicable depending on the volume of traffic carried.

4.4.3 – MOBILE-TO-FIXED INTERCONNECTION CHARGES

The following charts show the per minute interconnection charges for mobile call termination on a fixed network, based on a 3 minute call duration at peak rate as set out in the update to Annex II to the Commission Recommendation 98/195/EC on interconnection pricing in a liberalized telecommunications market.

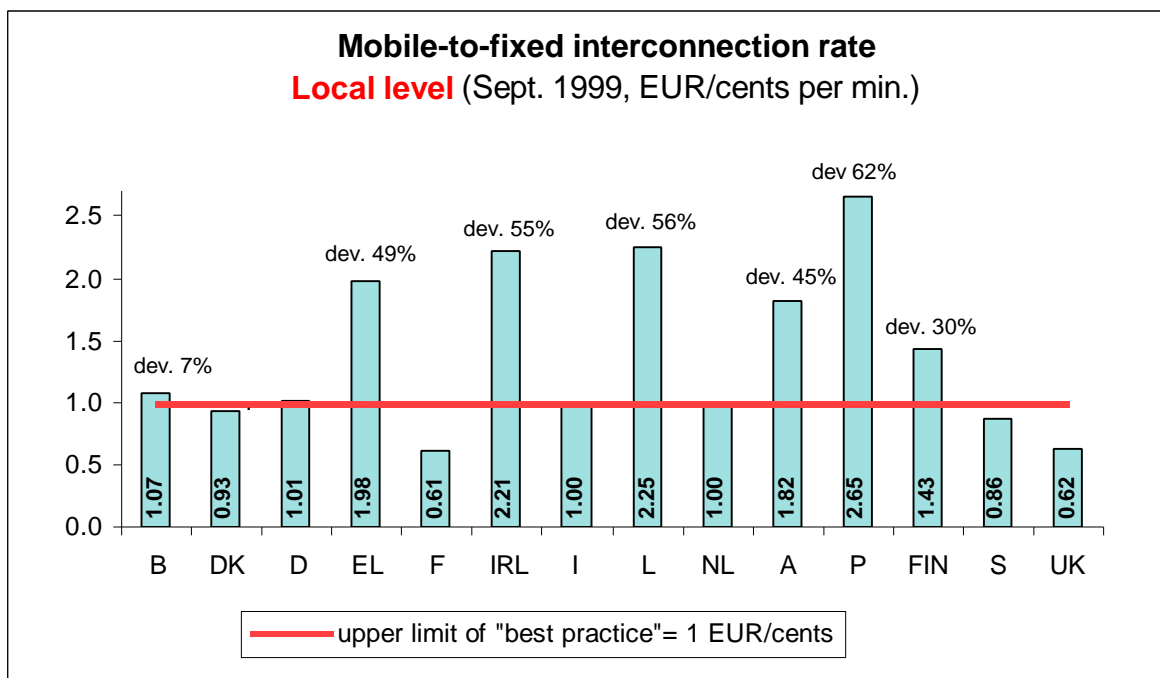
Charts show the absolute value of the interconnection charges (in EUR/cents) and the positive percentage deviations from the upper limit of the “1999 best practice recommendation on interconnection charges”:

- 0.5-1.0 EUR/cents per minute for local interconnection
- 0.8-1.6 EUR/cents per minute for single transit interconnection
- 1.5-2.3 EUR/cents per minute for double transit interconnection

For Portugal, fixed-to-fixed I/C charges will be applicable for mobile-to-fixed interconnection, from January 2000

In Luxembourg there is no distinction between local and domestic long-distance calls.

Chart 52



Data are not available for Spain.

Chart 53

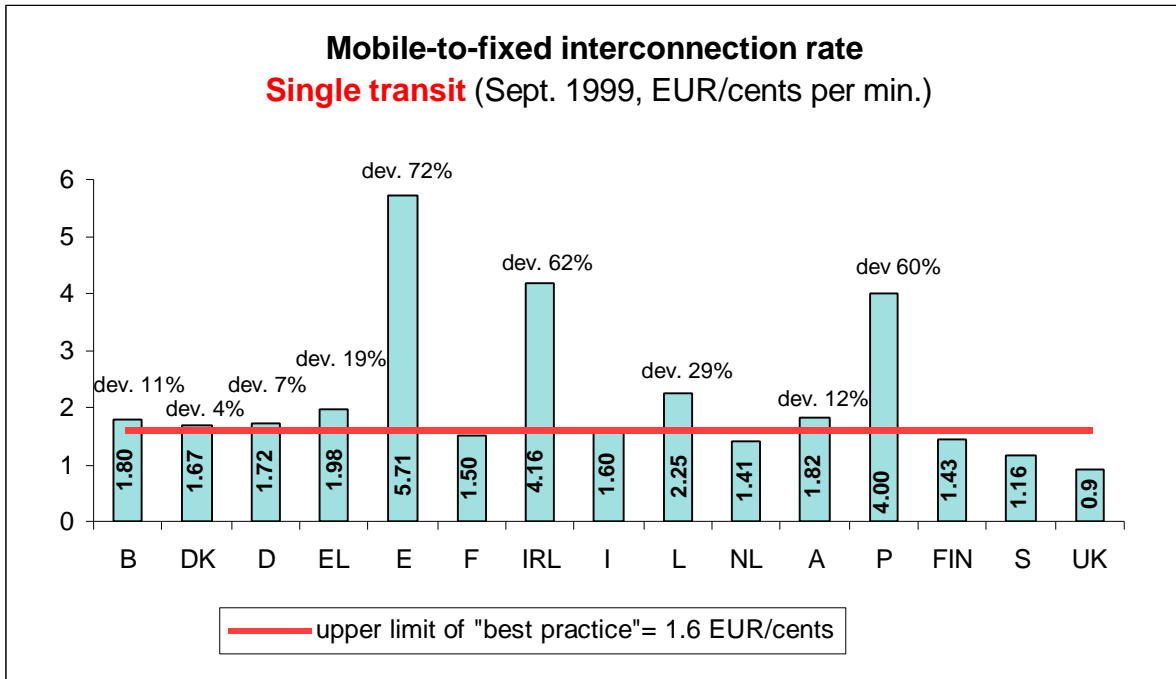


Chart 54

