



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2017) 1112 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Vouli ton Antiprosopon for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on cross-border parcel delivery services {COM(2016) 285 final}. The Commission welcomes the Vouli ton Antiprosopon's support for a framework for more affordable cross-border parcel delivery services, including provisions that would enable third party access to the networks of universal service providers.

Affordable, efficient and reliable parcel delivery services are essential for e-commerce, yet at present high delivery prices often stop e-retailers and consumers from buying and selling more online. Making cross-border delivery more affordable would help consumers get a better deal and choose from a wider range of products; help e-retailers to reach new consumers; and create more business for parcel delivery providers.

The proposal for a Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services is a targeted measure that complements the Commission's wider work to improve parcel delivery and measures in the Digital Single Market Strategy {COM(2015) 192 final} to facilitate cross-border e-commerce.

The Commission agrees that a common methodology for the assessments of affordability and the contents of the reference offer for third party access will be important to ensure consistency across the EU. The proposal for a Regulation already sets out the basic elements of the affordability assessment and the reference offer. Once the Regulation has been agreed and adopted by the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission will ask the European Regulators' Group for Postal Services to develop guidance on affordability and third party access.

To limit the administrative burden, the price transparency measures and affordability assessments will only be applied to a limited set of delivery services which are specified in an Annex to the Regulation. The Commission also welcomes suggestions to further reduce the administrative burden, for example through the electronic transmission of data.

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The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. As the Vouli ton Antiprosopon notes, the Slovak Presidency proposed amendments to the Regulation and presented a progress report to the Transport, Telecoms and Energy Council on 2 December 2016.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Vouli ton Antiprosopon and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*