

Press release

**European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP)
23rd Plenary meeting**

Barcelona, 25 November 2022

The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) held its second Plenary meeting of 2022, under the chairmanship of Mr Petros Galides, Deputy Communications Commissioner of Cyprus (OCECPR), supported by the Vice-Chair Dr. Spyros Pantelis, Vice President of the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT).

The Plenary agreed on the ERGP Work Programme for 2023, which sets out the ERGP's tasks for the next year in line with the strategic pillars of the newly adopted ERGP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2023-2025: (1) revisiting the postal sector and its regulatory framework in the light of environmental sustainability and digitalization; (2) promoting a competitive EU postal single market in the context of rising e-commerce deliveries and (3) empowerment of end-users and ensuring a user oriented universal service.

In 2023, the ERGP will focus its activities on the future needs of the USO, the effects of modernisation/adaptation of the universal service, regulatory powers, practices for environmental sustainability, postal core indicators and implementation of the Regulation on cross-border parcel delivery services, as well as quality of service, consumer protection and complaints handling.

The Plenary expressed regret that there was no immediate proposal to amend the regulatory framework, subsequent to Council Decision (EU) 2022/1327 of 26 July. At the same time, the Plenary supports the European Commission's undertaking of a forward-looking study of the postal sector that will constitute an input for the decision to revise the postal framework. Therefore, the ERGP Work Programme 2023 was amended to include a report on the effects of the modernisation of the universal service in those Member States where modifications to the universal service obligation have been implemented or are under way, in particular on employment and users' satisfaction, as well as cost/financial sustainability of the universal service providers.

Furthermore, the Plenary approved the following documents:

- ERGP PL II (22) 8 – ERGP follow –up report of the impact of online platforms in the postal sector;
- ERGP PL II (22) 10 – ERGP Report on Quality of service, consumer protection and consumer handling;



- ERGP PL II (22) 12 – ERGP Report on postal core indicators;
- ERGP PL II (22) 14– Report on access to the postal network in a context of booming e-commerce;
- ERGP PL II (22) 16 – ERGP report on environmental sustainability in the postal sector.

On this occasion, the ERGP has elected unanimously Mr Dan Sjöblom, Director-General of the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS), as ERGP Chair for 2024.

Prior to the Plenary meeting, on 24 November, the ERGP held a public workshop to discuss the future of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) in a context of strong volume decrease in the traditional postal sector and a boom in parcels due to e-commerce and the new consumption habits instigated by the pandemic. A practical debate, with a focus on the experience of countries that have undertaken USO reforms or are considering such a measure, provided an excellent starting point for the report on the impact of reform on users, employment, the environment and USPs' sustainability, that ERGP will prepare next year.

- For more information, visit: <https://ec.europa.eu/ergp>
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About the ERGP

The ERGP (European Regulators Group for Postal Services) is composed of the 27 national regulatory authorities (NRAs) for postal services of the EU, as well as national regulatory authorities from countries of the European Economic Area and countries with candidate status to join the EU. The ERGP advises and assists the Commission on the development of the internal market for postal services and on the consistent application in all Member States of the regulatory framework for postal services.