



Press Release

4th ERGP Stakeholders Forum

Brussels, 27 September 2023

Around 150 representatives of key stakeholders met in Brussels on 27 September for the 4th ERGP Stakeholders Forum.

ERGP 2022-2023 Chair, Mr. Petros Galides, Deputy Communications Commissioner at the Office of the Commissioner for Electronic Communications & Postal Regulation (OCECPR, Cyprus), conducted the Forum.

The Forum provided the European Commission and national regulators the opportunity to exchange views with a wide range of stakeholders on issues relevant to the postal sector. Three panels, complemented by a keynote speech by Mrs. Kerstin Jorna, Director General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, facilitated a deep discussion into some of the key issues the sector is facing.

Mr. Petros Galides moderated the first session that explored the future of letter mail. The conclusions of the discussion included that different trends (and drivers) manifest across different segments of the letter business (correspondence, transactional mail, government mail, marketing mail, goods) and different nations. It is thus not fitting to establish universal trends. Still, understanding and predicting the trends of letter post demand and the and how the volume mix compared to parcels may develop, is essential for crafting effective postal policies. Operators must strike the right balance between efficiency, price, and quality to ensure the best possible future for their services in a volatile environment.



Dr. Spyros Pantelis, Vice ERGP Chairman/Vice President Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT, Greece) moderated the session on *“Global Perspectives - How to connect the EU Postal Market with the world?”*, which looked at the potential of post-pandemic recovery in global postal interactions, the interrelation of global traffic volumes and regulation and the key role of EU postal services in achieving the EU’s green transition.

In her keynote speech, Mrs. Kerstin Jorna, Director General of Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, highlighted the priorities of the European Commission for the future of the postal sector: *“Beyond the key initiatives – the Green Deal, the Digital Decade, the EU long-term competitiveness policy – already impacting the sector, we need to reflect on an EU regulatory framework for the postal sector. We need a set of future-proof rules, apt to deliver to the changing needs of European citizens and businesses and to ensure the long-term competitiveness of the sector in this volatile environment. This is the current focus of the Commission’s activities in the postal field.”*

The final session was a Regulatory Round Table that addressed the *issue of whether we need postal-specific regulation to manage the transition of the postal sector*. It was moderated by Guillaume Roty, Deputy Head of Unit of the Investment and Public Services unit in the Directorate General for the Internal Market. Dr. Annegret Groebel, Head of International Relations, Bundesnetzagentur (Germany), pointed out that *the “regulatory model should acknowledge the change from a sender towards a receiver-oriented model and make sure the universal service is in line with users’ needs.”* Mr. Dimitris Theodorakis of UNI Europa stressed that *“Postal market liberalization must be accompanied by social cohesion measures that ensure decent wages and good working conditions for all market players involved in the postal supply chain.”* Mr. Botond Szebeny, General-Secretary of PostEurop, stated that: *“Within an extremely challenging context for the postal sector and an increasing regulatory pressure, the postal legislation shall remain focused on the Universal Service Obligation (USO) and provide for flexibility at national level. It is key to ensure an effective long-term financing model and a proportionate (cost-effective) regulatory burden to have a sustainable USO.”* Mr



Emanuele Frezza of UPS argued that: *The parcel delivery segment of the postal services market continues to be competitive and there is no specific need for additional regulatory pressure. Postal regulation should remain focused on avoiding market distortions or failures.*”

The Forum also looked at the ERGP draft Working Programme for 2024, which is under public consultation until 6 October. It was presented by Dan Sjöblom, Incoming ERGP Chair 2024, Director General of the Swedish Post & Telecom Authority (PTS). The presentation was followed by an exchange of views between the ERGP representatives and the audience.

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