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Regulatory news

German labour minister proposes new law to fight “shameful” working conditions in parcel industry.

German labour minister Hubertus Heil has strongly criticised working conditions in the parcel delivery sector and is planning to introduce a new law that will oblige delivery sub-contractors and potentially the contracting companies to pay social insurance for their delivery staff.

The parcel industry has been repeatedly criticised for poor working conditions. Now, the labour minister wants to tackle the issue to ensure correct working conditions and social standards in this very competitive sector.

“I am not prepared to accept developments in parts of the parcel sector for any longer,” the SPD politician told the German regional editorial network RND. He described working conditions for some workers as “shameful”.

Under the planned law, the widely-used delivery subcontractors would be obliged to pay social contributions for their delivery staff but parcel carriers who contract their services might be forced to do so if the sub-contractors don’t pay up. "This will ensure fair competition, social security and better working conditions," Heil stressed.

In concrete terms, the so-called “increased contractor’s enterprise liability” regulation would be extended to the parcel industry. This means that the contracting client is responsible for the correct working conditions with all subcontractors. Large parcel operators would therefore have to take responsibility themselves and pay the contributions in case their subcontractors breached their social security obligations.

04/03/2019
CEP Research
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US Postal Regulation Commission to host off-the-record technical conference: Stakeholder participation on rate design for international mail encouraged.

Washington, DC – The Postal Regulatory Commission, in consultation with the U.S. Postal Service, will host an off-the-record technical conference on Friday, February 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. EST, to facilitate stakeholder discussion on how best to achieve the objectives outlined in the Presidential Memorandum of August 23, 2018, and to provide an opportunity for the public to share its views on an appropriate rate design for international mail.

Postal Service representatives are expected to discuss matters on the technical, policy, or strategic aspects related to competitive Inbound Letter Post Small Packets and Bulky Letters and Inbound Competitive Registered Mail Services. See presentation - Conference mp3 audio

12/02/2019
Postal Regulatory Commission US

Wednesday, February 27th, 2019, the Opening Ceremony of the EU-funded twinning project, "Strengthening of the capacities of the Postal Agency", took place at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia. Mr. Freek Janmaat, High Representative of the Delegation of the EU, Mr. Zoran Manevski State Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Communications, opened the event.

The budget of the project amounts to 600,000 euros and will last for 18 months (December 2018 - June 2020). Postal Agency is the main beneficiary institution.

The technical implementation of the project will be led by Ms. Mirjana Jankovik, from the Postal Agency and Mr. Rafael Crespo Arce (Deputy Director for postal Affairs- Spanish Ministry of Public Works and Transports) with extensive experience in the field and supported by Mr. Germán Vázquez Asenjo (Chairman of the European Committee for Postal Regulation - CERP). They will provide the basis for the development of capacities of the Postal Agency in accordance with the requirements derived from the national legislation and the Postal Directive of the European Union.

The mandatory results of the project are the following:

- Creation of policy papers and procedures.
- Determining adequate separate accounting and cost allocation system, net cost calculation model of the universal service and price policy model.
- Strengthening the inspection role of the Postal Agency.
- Establishing criteria and legislative provisions for EN 13724 standardized private letter boxes.
- Improvement of capacities for specific market analysis.

Given the regulatory and harmonization importance, the event was attended by Mr. Germán Vázquez Asenjo, Chairman of the European Committee for Postal Regulation, who wanted to support the project and applaud the initiative.

The event had great coverage, both in the national press and television.

27/02/2019
Press release - Postal Agency (Republic of North Macedonia)
National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology (ANRCETI) of the Republic of Moldova. Specialists study issues regarding the regulation of costs for postal services and access to the network of the universal postal service provider.

On February 7-8, the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology (ANRCETI) is hosting a workshop on "Costs for postal services and access to the network of the universal postal service provider". The event is attended by specialists from ANRCETI, as well as from the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

The workshop is provided by the European Commission (EC) by means of the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Program (TAIEX) and is delivered by two experts in electronic and postal communications from Austrian Regulatory Authority for Broadcasting and Telecommunications (RTR) and of the Lithuanian Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT).

The experts will share their experience in the field of postal service regulation, as well as the best policies and strategies applied to establish postal service costs and ensure access to the universal postal service provider's network.

This is the first workshop this year, under the TAIEX technical assistance and information exchange program. By the end of 2019, ANRCETI has planned three more workshops, which will focus on topical issues in the field of electronic and postal communications.

TAIEX is a technical assistance and information exchange tool of the EC, which provides support to authorities in transposing and implementing European Union (EU) legislation in beneficiary countries. This program provides advice to specialists from beneficiary countries by means of the assistance from EU experts.

07/02/2019
ANRCETI

The Romanian Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications extends the period of designation of the National Company Romanian Post S.A. (CNPR) as a universal service provider until 31 December 2019.

CNPR has been designated as universal service provider in the postal services field for the period 1 January 2014 - 31 December 2018. Taking into account the need to ensure universal service in the field of postal services, the MCSI requested ANCOM to extend the period for the designation of CNPR until December 31 2019, according to the legislation in force. After this period, the measures for the designation of one or more universal service providers will pursue the objectives and action lines set out by MCSI in the "Policy and Strategy Paper on universal service in the postal services sector" for the period 2019-2029.

CNPR’s rights and obligations, as laid down by Decision no. 1158/2013 on the designation of the National Company Romanian Post S.A. as a universal service provider in the postal services field, with the subsequent amendments and completions, remain unchanged.
CNPR has the obligation to provide the services within the scope of universal service throughout Romania, including in remote or sparsely populated geographic areas, where the low number of cleared or delivered postal items does not justify the commercial activity of a postal service provider. Moreover, CNPR will ensure the disabled persons’ access to services within the scope of universal service it has the obligation to provide, under conditions equivalent with those available to the rest of the users. The Decision regarding the designation of CNPR as a universal service provider in the postal services field is available, in Romanian, here.

07/02/2019
ANCOM

CERP activity

8th Steering Committee web meeting.

The 8th Steering Committee meeting took place on Friday 8th February. Several topics were discussed and some decisions were made:

- CERP Newsletter nº 2. It was presented by the CERP Secretariat and approved by the Steering Committee.

- New CERP Database on the European Committee (CEN) for standardization documents. This new database shows the works carry out by CEN that could have an impact from a regulatory point of view.

- Rules of Procedures questionnaire – Fifteen responses have been received what it is very good input from the CERP member countries. Anyway, it was decided to extend the deadline in order to get as many responses as possible.

- CERP technical cooperation projects. Several initiatives on this topic were discussed and it was decided to present a full report of them to the next WG meetings in Belgrade.

13/02/2019
CERP News

New CERP Ministries Group web meeting.

On Tuesday 12 February, the new CERP Ministries Group held its first web conference to discuss the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1393/2007 on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (service of documents).

It was discussed the new art 14 that make mandatory the acknowledgement of receipt of registered letters under the scope of this regulation and the new Annex IV that establish a new form, different from the UPU CN07, for the acknowledgement of receipt.

19/02/2019
CERP News
CERP questionnaire on the Rules of Procedure

From 3rd December to 28th February, CERP member countries have responded to the questionnaire on the Rules of Procedure.

23 responses have been received to the questions on the following topics:

- New types of decisions;
- Simplify the Working Groups structure;
- Modify the procedure to amend the Rules of Procedure;
- Establish a new and flexible “Working Methods”.

CERP member countries agree on the amendments proposed. During the next Belgrade WG Policy meeting, the detailed results will be presented and discussed.

11/03/2019
CERP News