



## **Draft Report of the 50<sup>th</sup> Plenary in Sofia,**

**28-29 May 2015**

### **1. Welcome**

The CERP Chairman welcomed the participants of the Plenary meeting and thanked the hosts, the Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, for hosting and organizing the meeting.

The CERP Chairman invited Mr. Valery Borissov, the Deputy Minister of the Transport, Information Technology and Communications to take the floor. The Deputy Minister welcomed the participants and stated that during the last 20 years the postal sector in Europe passed significant changes, especially in the segment of letters and parcels. Rapid development of the digital technologies and their penetration in the everyday life changed the perceptions of the public how to communicate. There is no doubt about the speed and convenience of the electronic communications, but also we should not ignore the ability of the letter to transmit messages as well as the fact that during the more than a century the post has been the main instrument for communication between the people of whole world. Also, he emphasized that the role of CERP is of great importance in order to share the best practices and developments in the sector related to the implementation of the legal and regulatory framework, quality of postal services, economic and social issues and technological changes.

### **2. Approval of the Agenda and introduction by the Chairman (Doc.1 E/F Rev.2)**

The Agenda for the Plenary meeting was read by the Chairman and it was adopted with no comments.

### **3. Approval of the Report of the 49<sup>th</sup> Plenary meeting in Skopje on 29-30 May 2014 (Doc 2E Doc.2F)**

The Chairman stated that on the last Plenary meeting 59 delegates from 27 countries were present.

The Report was approved.

### **4. Report of the Steering Group meeting on 22 October 2014 and 16 April 2015 (Doc.3 and Doc.4)**

The Chairman reported on the two Steering Group meetings held in Belgrade and in Bern, respectively.

Belgium and Portugal discussed item 4 of Doc.3, concerning organizing the Regional Strategy Conference by PostEurop, and greater involvement by CERP.

The Chairman agreed that a joint conference between CERP and PostEurop should be organized.



The UPU representative, Ms. Won-je Lee, mentioned a letter about the conference, that was supposed to be sent to UPU by CERP, of which the UPU has no knowledge.

The chairman of CERP WG UPU stated that CERP did not send the letter to UPU.

PostEurop will hold a conference in October 2015 in Cyprus, CERP feels that it is very important for them to participate in that conference.

After the discussion, the two reports were approved.

#### **5. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission on 12 November 2014 (Doc.5)**

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission held in Bern on 12 November 2014. During this meeting, the representative of the EC informed that CERP is invited to make their contribution in the public consultation on the Discussion Paper on the implementation of Universal Service in the postal sector and the effects of recent changes in some countries on the scope of the USO and also during the ERGP meeting in Bucharest on 19 November 2014. Furthermore, the EC representative provided information about the ongoing work of ERGP working groups and preparing the work programme for the 2015.

#### **6. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/PostEurop on 11 November 2014 (Doc.6)**

The Chairman reported on the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/PostEurop held in Bern on 11 November 2014, where the CERP Chairman explained that in 2015, since it is a year before the UPU Congress, it may be necessary to organize two CERP Plenary meetings, one regular in May 2015 and one short plenary meeting in October 2015. The date and place of the venue will be additionally determined. – CERP Chairman of the WG UPU also explained that WG UPU in 2015 will strengthen its activities, given that the next year is the year of the UPU Congress. PostEurop representative described the activities that they have in the area of e-commerce and determined barriers in the field of the customs procedures.

Regarding the regional round tables on the draft Istanbul Postal Strategy, representatives from CERP and PostEurop agreed on mutual cooperation concerning European Regional round table, and also representatives from PostEurop informed CERP that PostEurop will organize Regional round table in Nicosia, Cyprus on the 14 and 15 October 2015 during PostEurop Plenary meeting, according to the UPU Regional Round table on the draft Istanbul Postal Strategy.

#### **7. State of affairs in ERGP**

Mr. Joost Callaert, a senior advisor at the BIPT, on behalf of the ERGP Secretariat, gave a presentation of the ERGP key activities in the second half of 2014 and ERGP Work programme for 2015. He gave an overview on the ERGP Tasks, ERGP Structure and the ERGP Working groups. Then, he reported on the ERGP key activities in the second half of 2014; namely on the ERGP stakeholders workshop on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Bucharest and the ERGP Plenary on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014.



Mr. Callaert presented the ERGP Work programme for 2015 and said that deliverables by the ERGP workgroups are expected by the end of 2015.

The presentation is attached to this Draft Report.

#### **8. Current activities on the development of the Istanbul Postal Strategy IPS on the European region**

The representative of PostEurop, Secretary General Mr. Botond Szebeny, gave a presentation on PostEurop planning activities on UPU Regional Roundtable. He gave a short overview on the PostEurop structure and the 2015 UAC Business plan. He then presented the key differences between the Doha and the Istanbul Postal Strategies and key recent and planned activities of UPU.

Germany had a comment, or rather a suggestion for a joint round table between PostEurop and CERP.

Belgium discussed the practical cooperation between PostEurop and CERP.

Norway emphasized that cooperation is useful and both parties will have benefits.

The presentation is attached to this Draft Report.

#### **9. Report CERP mission to Seychelles and UPU IPDP Regional Conference**

The CERP Chairman gave a presentation on the UPU Regional conference on the postal sector reform and development process through the UPU's IPDP methodology, which was held in Skopje on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The second presentation was delivered by Mr. Nikola Trubint, a representative from Serbia, on the CERP mission to Seychelles. He presented the preparation activities, the planning implementation activities, as well as the facts and findings of the first mission. He also reflected on the main challenges and the further steps to be taken for the Seychelles mission fulfilment.

Both presentations are attached to this Draft Report.

#### **10. Recent developments in UPU - Presentation by the International Bureau**

Ms. Won-ja Lee gave an overview on the recent developments in the UPU. The main topic was the major outcome of the 2015 POC Session and the POC resolution:

- Develop a roadmap for implementing EAD (capacity building, the approved global model, timelines by type of postal item based on the phased-in approach);
- Decided to seek the official views of the EC concerning how the destination designated operator, where EAD requirements are in place, should handle postal items having no EAD: refuse, return or process? and whether personal data protection measures in the EU and relevant jurisdictions permit the reciprocal exchange of EAD elements currently contained in the CN 23?
- Provide all the member countries and their DOs with that information without delay in any case before the 2015 CA.

She also reflected on the major areas for UPU reform, namely structure, decision-making and working method.

The presentation is attached to this Draft Report.

#### **11. Report of the Working Group Policy (Doc. 7)**

The Vice-Chairman of the CERP, Ms. Anna Karolak-Woźniak, on behalf of the Chair of WG Policy, gave an overview of the CERP WG Policy meeting held in London, on 5-6 March 2015. The main topics discussed on the meeting were obligation to finance the Austrian Regulator by operators, last developments in UK, public consultation of a new Postal Act in Norway, challenges facing the postal universal service in Germany and recent developments in Member Countries.

The report was approved by the Plenary.

#### **12. Report of the Working Group UPU (Doc.8 and Doc.9)**

The Chair of the WG UPU, Mr. Egil Thorstensen, gave a brief presentation of the WG UPU meeting held in Belgrade on 23 October 2014 and the WG UPU meeting held in Rome on 19-20 March 2015.

Both reports were approved by the Plenary.

#### **13. Report of the Task Force Communication**

The Chair of Task Force Communication, Mr. Ulrich Dammann, presented the Newsletter and reported that the next issue would be in the summer of 2015. He also invited the participants for contributions, to send any reports they have related to consumers and the state of USO.

#### **14. Forum**

The forum "The new challenges and opportunities for USO, arising from rapidly evolving postal market in relation to the postal regulation" was held in a panel discussion with Mr. Maurits Bruggink (EMOTA), Mr. Axel Kirmess (Germany), Ms. Won-ja Lee (UPU), Ms. Kalina Dimitrova (Bulgaria) and Jean-Paul Forceville (PostEurop).

It was moderated by Mr. Ulrich Dammann from Germany.

The moderator first asked the panellists to give an example where they may see a challenge and where an opportunity in the evolution of the postal market. Each of the panellists gave their own example and opinions of the abovementioned question. The second general question addressed the relation between letter post and electronic means of communication, namely the future of letter post as marketing media, will there be a trend to electronic or will there be a bigger role for unaddressed mail? Similarly, the panellists answered the questions according to their experience, opinions and case studies.

It was followed by specific questions addressed to single members of the panel, on which they gave their answers and comments. There were comments and questions by the Plenary participants from the floor.

[MP3 files of the discussion can be found on the CERP website \(http://www.cept.org/cerp/deliverables/list-of-plenaries\)](http://www.cept.org/cerp/deliverables/list-of-plenaries)

## **15. Exchange of information between regulators/ministries**

The Chairman thanked the participants of the forum and echoed some of the points that have been said by the panellists.

The representative from Norway reported that currently there is a new national proposal and that a new postal Act will be adopted by mid-summer.

The representative from Belgium reported that a study from WiK has been done, reflecting three years after full market opening in Belgium and that the study is available on the regulator's website.

The representative from Poland reported that the President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) announced the results of the competition for the designated postal operator. The designated postal operator's primary duty is to provide domestic and international universal postal service encompassing:

- letter-post items, including registered letters and letters with declared value, weighing up to 2000 g and dimensions specified in the postal law,
- items for the blind,
- postal parcels, including ones with insured value up to 10 000 g and dimensions specified in the postal law,
- inbound international postal parcels weighing up to 20 000 g and dimensions specified in the postal law.

UKE received two offers. To the final round an offer of Poczta Polska SA was qualified. According to article 71 of Postal law, postal operator is designated by the President of UKE for 10 years to deliver universal services.

The representative from Italy reported shortly on the situation of the Italian postal market after full liberalization.

The representative from Greece reported briefly on the USO net costs, the compensation fund and the universal postal service.

## **16. Programme of Plenaries**

The CERP Chairman presented the Programme of Plenaries until the present moment. Since at that point there was no host country for the next CERP Plenary meeting in 2016, he asked the CERP members to consider if they could offer to host the next meeting in 2016.



## **17. AOB**

The Chairman expressed gratitude to the hosts of the 50<sup>th</sup> CERP Plenary meeting and also to the participants.

### ***Annexes:***

- Presentations: State of affairs in ERGP; Current activities on the development of the Istanbul Postal Strategy on the European region; Report CERP mission to Seychelles and UPU IPDP Regional conference; Recent development in UPU - presentation by the UPU representative.
- Attendance list

Skopje, 03.07.2015

Lj.Mitevski, CERP Chairman

M.Jankovikj, CERP Secretariat