



**Draft Report of the 46th Plenary in Belgrade,
24 – 25 May 2012**

1. Welcome

The CERP chairman welcomed the members and thanked the Serbian hosts for organizing this plenary at this beautiful place with its long history.

Ms Jasna Matic, State Secretary of the Republic of Serbia, welcomed the participants to Belgrade and was pleased to have the opportunity to host a CERP Plenary in Belgrade. She declared her convictions that new and fruitful ideas would come up from this assembly in this attractive environment and wished all participants good conversations.

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

The CERP chairman explained the change of the agenda regarding the topic of the forum. This was necessary because several participants of the forum were not able to participate in the meeting due to other obligations.

The agenda was adopted without any comments.

3. Approval of the report of the 45th Plenary meeting in Montreux on 27 October 2011 (Doc 2 E/F)

The report was approved without any amendments.

4. Report of the Steering Group meeting on 24 and 25 January 2012 (Doc 3)

The CERP chairman reported about the first meeting of the Steering Group in 2012. The most important topics were the CERP Newsletters, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CERP and the UPU and the preparation of the 46th CERP Plenary in Belgrade.

5. Results of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission on 25 January 2012 (Doc 4)

The European Commission gave an overview of the current work of ERGP. Furthermore the Contact Committee discussed the work of CERP Working groups, the above mentioned MOU and the code of conduct regarding the intended voting behaviour concerning the UPU Congress proposals.

6. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/ PostEurop on 26 January 2012 (Doc 5)

The CERP chairman reported about the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP and PostEurop . The discussions were mainly focused on the preparation of the UPU Congress in Doha, the 46th CERP Plenary and the CERP questionnaire on the 3rd Postal Directive.

PostEurop informed about a 2nd Plenary on 4 October 2012 in Doha, dealing with internal issues only.

The next meeting of the Contact Committee is foreseen during the first week of September 2012 in Germany (to be confirmed).

7. State of affairs in ERGP

Mr Robert Pochmarski reported that from 26 November 2011 Sweden is chairing ERGP. He invited the CERP members to pay attention to the ERGP website where the endorsed work program for 2012 is available. The progress of the ERGP work can also be tracked there.

The contact network will have its next meetings on 20 June 2012 and probably on 26 October (to be confirmed).

8. Report of the Working Group Policy (Doc 6)

The WG chair, Ms. Anna Karolak, reported about the 2nd meeting of the WG on 28 March 2012 in Warsaw.

The Working Group has discussed the questionnaire “Opinions of member countries on the postal directive 2008/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 amending Directive 97/67/EC”. The discussion mainly concentrated on the universal service and competition.

Furthermore she informed about a second survey regarding “Ex-ante and ex-post regulation” and strongly invited CERP members respond to the questionnaire and return it to the CERP secretariat.

Due to a very busy period before 25th UPU Congress it was agreed that the next WG meeting will take place in 2013 only. In the meantime the final reports regarding the two surveys will be finalized.

9. European regulatory matters – Presentation by the European Commission

The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Robert Pochmarski, gave a presentation including the recent regulatory developments in the European Union, related amongst others to the issues of the implementation process, market monitoring, the forthcoming Green Paper on e-commerce and the international dimension of EU postal market regarding the imminent UPU Congress in Doha (annexed).

He highlighted the excellent state of affairs of the implementation process towards full market opening in 2013. Regarding the monitoring of the postal market within the EU he underlined the important work performed by Eurostat in close cooperation with ERGP and the national NRAs. Exemplary graphs from the Eurostat website showed a comparison between 2004 with 2010 in turnover, employment, post office density, on-time delivery and price development within the EU member states.

He announced that, following the e-commerce communication of January 2012 and discussions with the relevant stakeholders, the European Commission intend to publish a corresponding Green Paper by the end of this year.

Regarding the preparation of the forthcoming UPU Congress in Doha he informed about the foreseen activities on EU level including meetings of the Postal Directive Committee and of the Council Working Group.

10. Security and customs measures – Presentation by PostEurop

The representative of PostEurop, Mr. Joost Vantomme gave a presentation on the regulatory developments in the field of aviation security and customs relevant for operational aspects (annexed). Against the background of the “Yemen-Incident” in 2010, when parcel bombs were sent from Yemen to the US he explained specifics in the postal supply chain and the ongoing projects worldwide. Furthermore he presented the EU approach and the consequences in the means of free flow of goods and data security from an operational point of view.

11. Forum

The Forum was organized in two parts:

First the European candidate for the post of the Deputy Director General, Mr. Pascal Clivaz, presented himself to the audience. He stressed that his approach for a possible new function is based on governance, efficiency, solidarity, transparency and fairness. In his view the most important issues for the next UPU cycle will be the continuation of the reform process, the implementation of a global strategy with specialized regional solutions and a forward thinking balanced approach taking on board all member countries. Mp3 files of his speech can be found on the CERP website.

The second part of the forum was held in a panel discussion concerning the most important issues to be decided within the forthcoming UPU Congress in Doha, moderated by Egil Thorstensen. The discussants were Dejan Djurovic from Serbia, Etienne Defrance from Belgium, John Hearn from Ireland, Pascal Clivaz from Switzerland and Robert Pochmarski from the European Commission.

The discussion included the areas of Terminal Dues, Security, Electronic postal services, Organisation of CA/POC meetings and the document distribution. Mp3 files of the discussion can be found on the CERP website.

12. Memorandum of Understanding between CERP and UPU (Doc 8 Rev1)

The CERP chairman introduced Doc 8 Rev.1. He highlighted that in 2011 CERP already has cooperated with UPU concerning a project in Swaziland and by organizing a Regulatory Workshop with COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, encompassing 19 member states from this region).

The draft MOU was approved by CERP members.

As a next step the approval by CEPT members is required prior to the presentation for signing of the MOU in the beginning of the year 2013

13. CERP Code of Conduct (Doc 9)

Mr Egil Torstensen, chair if the CERP WG UPU, presented the Code of Conduct, which has been created in order to further the implementation of the tasks of the working Group UPU.

In derogation from the Code of Conducts in preparation of previous UPU-Congresses, this draft does not include an agreement between CERP and PostEurop but describes the coordination and condition modalities solely for CERP members regarding the evaluation and classification of proposals.

The Code of Conduct was approved.

14. Recent developments in UPU – Presentation by the International Bureau

The representative of the International Bureau of the UPU, Ms. Won-ja Lee, gave a presentation on the recent developments concentrating on the preparation of the 25th UPU Congress in Doha (annexed).

She informed the members about the foreseen composition of the committees and about the Doha Ministerial Conference on 8th October 2012 where the topics of technology, inclusion and the future of postal services will be dealt with.

She explained details of Congress preparation including General Statements and Reservations at Congress. Furthermore detailed information including the issues of mail exchange between Palestine and Union member countries, security standards, Consultative Committee activities, reform of the Union, interconnectivity, terminal dues governance, development cooperation, finance and administration as well as the UPU strategy was provided.

15. Report of the Working Group UPU (Doc 7)

Mr. Egil Thorstensen gave an overview on the work in the working group. He stressed that Doc 7 refers to the meeting held in Madrid on 2-3 February 2012. A second meeting has taken place in Estoril on 15-16 May 2012. Since this meeting had been organized just one week before this CERP Plenary meeting, a written report of this meeting will shortly be drafted and circulated in due time.

He emphasised the important task of this group in the preparation of the UPU congress in Doha with the aim to reach CERP common positions on proposals of regulatory and strategic nature.

Further meetings are scheduled in the beginning of July in Oslo and the beginning of September in Germany.

16. Report of the Task Force Communication

The CERP chairman gave an overview of the Task Force work accomplished so far.

A first newsletter for 2012 has been published in March including a contribution by Werner Stengg, Head of Section Postal and Online Services, Internal Market and Services Directorate-General of the European Commission as well as an overview of the new CERP structure.

A second newsletter is foreseen for summer 2012 including interviews with the UPU candidates for Director General and Deputy Director General. The task force will prepare a list of questions to be answered to this effect by the candidates.

17. CEPT/CERP Website (Doc. 10)

The CERP chairman pointed out that the new website offers a wide range of opportunities for the distribution of information.

He explained that from 1 June 2012 onwards working group documents will be available on the website only, so that any CERP member wishing to receive these WG documents has to register to the related working group on the CERP website.

Despite this, the working group chairs will continue to inform the members who have indicated their interest in meetings of the working groups by a separate email.

Documents related to CERP Plenary meetings will be distributed by the CERP secretariat via email as before.

18. Exchange of information between regulators/ministries

Lithuania: The NRA introduced regulations for cost accounting rules concerning the compensation scheme for services that are not cost-covering, as for example newspaper distribution in rural areas.

Ireland: On the NRA website a consultation paper is currently published, regarding the regulatory framework and especially aiming at a new specification of the minimum set of universal postal services.

Greece: A new postal law, transposing directive 2008/6/EC has been adopted and is in force as of March 2012, while the USP monopoly will end by 31/12/2012. The European Commission provided valuable support during the drafting.

Germany: From 1 March 2012 the NRA is headed by a new President, Mr. Jochen Homann. Simultaneously a new Vice-President responsible for postal affairs, Mr. Peter Franke, was introduced.

The ruling chamber responsible for postal affairs currently is investigating the access conditions for direct mail ("Info Post") regarding the limitation to items of similar content.

19. Programme of Plenaries (Doc. 11)

The CERP chairman introduced Doc 11 and reminded CERP members that from 2014 onwards CERP will organize one plenary meeting per year only. He asked CERP members to evaluate if they could offer to host this meeting in spring 2014.

The next plenary meeting will be organized by Cyprus on 8-9 November 2012. The representative of Cyprus introduced his country by a video clip showing its beauty and explaining opportunities of the location.

In spring 2013 the plenary will take place in Norway.

20. AOB

The CERP chairman informed the members about a letter from the Director General of the UPU concerning a study on greenhouse gas emissions resulting from postal activities asking CERP to confirm its interest in the continuation of this activity. The plenary concluded that CERP generally is interested in this subject, however before committing the members would like to know the resources necessary to undertake this activity.

Finally the CERP Plenary Assembly wished all the best to Mr. Fernando Molina, who was active as a Spanish CERP delegate for many years, for his forthcoming retirement.

Annex

Presentation by European Commission

Presentation by UPU

Presentation by PostEurop

Bonn, 16 July 2012

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