



**Draft Report of the 48th Plenary in Kristiansand,
23 – 24 May 2013**

1. Welcome

The CERP chairman welcomed the members and thanked the Norwegian hosts for organizing for the second time a plenary meeting in Norway.

The Director General of the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority, Mr. Torstein Olsen, welcomed the participants to Kristiansand and wished a fruitful meeting. He mentioned that the authority is celebrating its 20th birthday this year and is located near Kristiansand in Lillesand.

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

The agenda was adopted without any comments.

3. Approval of the report of the 47th Plenary meeting in Limassol on 08-09 November 2012 (Doc 2 E/F)

The report was approved without any amendments.

4. Report of the Steering Group meeting on 13 March 2013 (Doc 3)

The CERP chairman informed about the meeting of the Steering Group. The most important topics were the activities of the Working Groups, the progress in the recent project between COMESA and CERP and the preparation of the 48th CERP Plenary in Kristiansand.

Regarding the CERP Newsletters the Chairman highlighted that the second Newsletter in 2012 with the presentation of the candidates for UPU Director General and Deputy Director General had a very good result with about 5000 downloads from the website and that the next newsletter is foreseen for July 2013.

The next Steering Group meeting will be organised together with the meeting of WG UPU in autumn 2013 or during the autumn session of the CA.

5. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission on 11 April 2013 (Doc 4)

The CERP chairman reported about the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission. During this meeting the representative of the European Commission, Mr. Robert Pochmarski, provided information about the ongoing work in the different ERGP working groups. He also agreed to participate in the forum discussion at the Plenary in Kristiansand and to give his view in a coming newsletter.

The next meeting of the Contact Committee is scheduled for September 2013.

6. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/ PostEurop on 25 April (Doc 5)

The CERP chairman reported about the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP and PostEurop where the latter agreed to participate in the Forum discussion in Kristiansand. He announced that the PostEurop Chairman invited CERP to the next PostEurop Plenary meeting which will be held on 18-19 September 2013, where the 20th anniversary of PostEurop will be celebrated. The discussions mainly focused on the activities of the CERP working groups and the PostEurop working Group dealing with regulatory issues.

The next meeting of the Contact Committee is foreseen for autumn 2013.

7. Report of the Working Group Policy (Doc 6 Rev.1)

The WG chair, Ms. Anna Karolak, reported about the meeting in Madrid on 13-14 March 2013. The most important topics were the discussion on an integrated parcel delivery market for the growth of e-commerce, literature for the blind, the cooperation between CERP and UPU and a presentation on results of the questionnaire concerning future standardisation.

PostEurop and France pointed out that e-commerce is an important subject for Postal operators and that there is no need for regulation.

Switzerland underlined that many jobs are created by e-commerce and recommended to take a look at pertinent OECD-Studies.

8. Report of the Working Group UPU (Doc 7 + Annex)

The Chairman of the WG UPU, Mr. Egil Thorstensen, presented the result of the meeting in March in Madrid. The WG decided to focus on fewer UPU proposals of particular relevance in the next cycle to be able to find common positions. In order to do so it was decided to arrange "Round table" discussions for the member countries. Furthermore, during the WG meeting the IB held a presentation regarding some of the fundamental duties of the CA and the Work programs for CA Committee 1 to 4 and its project groups.

PostEurop would like to strengthen the relations with CERP and other Restricted Unions. Thus, a PostEurop observer will be present at the CERP WG meeting and a CERP observer at the PostEurop meeting.

The next meeting of the WG UPU will be held in the second week of October.

Subsequently Switzerland informed the participants about the Geneva Group. The Geneva Group is an informal Group of the UN and is chaired by the US and Switzerland.

The main item of the Group are questions with regard to governance and management issues. Ambassadors also meet periodically to take a strategic overview of the progress being made at expert level. Also several local Groups exist which try to lobby the UN agencies on governance and management issues.

9. Memorandum of Understanding between CEPT and UPU (Doc 8 + Annex)

The CERP Chairman informed the members that the MOU has been signed during the recent CA meeting on 25 April 2013 in Berne. He reported that projects within the scope of this MOU are going to be agreed between the IB and CERP after the summer break. Participants who would like to join the expert team shall inform the CERP secretariat accordingly.

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

Ms. Won-Ja Lee gave an overview about the recent developments in the UPU. The main topic was the outcome of the POC and the CA. The POC established the new Regulations on the basis of more than 300 proposals. It also approved the annual business plan and the structure and composition of its bodies. She reported that the CA approved its new structure and the work plan. Also the different chairs have been assigned. Furthermore the MOU with CERP has been signed. She also reported that Cote d'Ivoire offered to host the Strategy Conference in 2014. The final decision about this conference will be taken in the November session of the CA.

Germany raised the issue about the legal basis for a strategy conference in 2014 within the current UPU framework.

France suggested talking about the cost of a strategy conference at the next CA meeting.

The IB will prepare contributions on this topic for the next CA.

The presentation is attached.

11. Report of CERP Mission to Sudan

Dr Nikola Trubint, the leader of the CERP Mission to Sudan, reported about the preparations and the first part of the Mission to Sudan. The main topics of this first mission were market analysis, NRA issues and the infrastructure for universal service fulfilment. He informed the participants about a draft document where the results of the mission can be found.

The presentation is attached.

12. State of affairs in ERGP

This point of the agenda was presented together with point 13 "European regulatory matters".

13. European regulatory matters – Presentation by the European Commission

The representative of the European Commission, Mr. Robert Pochmarski, gave a presentation including a recall of the developments from 1992 till now. He also reported about the Green Paper on delivery which is one of the 5 main priorities for e-commerce.

The presentation is attached.

14. Report of the Task Force Communication

The Chairman reported about the successful CERP Newsletter. He explained furthermore that the work programm stipulates that the task force communication is responsible for the contact with the relevant stakeholders. Therefore a separate team with a chair should be set up. A decision on this topic will be taken during the next plenary.

15. Forum

The forum “CERP – what’s next?” was held in a panel discussion with John Hearn, an Expert from Ireland, Botond Szebeny from PostEurop, Won-ja Lee from the International Bureau of the UPU, Torstein Olsen from the Norwegian NRA, Udo Seidl from Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology in Germany and Robert Pochmarski from the European Commission, moderated by Tobias Katzschnmann from the German Regulator.

The discussants first explained their views towards CERP and its future role. They thought that CERP could

- be a platform for all members to exchange opinions/views
- provide the UPU member countries with the European experience
- exchange views concerning POC and CA topics and of topics of the Congress in Istanbul
- focus on work of UPU matters
- have a strong cooperation between CERP and PostEurop
- cooperate with developing countries.

All discussants agreed that an active participation of member countries is a necessary pre-condition.

In the second part of the Forum CERP members were asked to describe their expectations of CERP’s future role. They backed up the views expressed by the panel saying that CERP should

- concentrate on the work of UPU
- strengthen its position with PostEurop as a Restricted Union
- contribute proactively in developing proposals to influence the UPU activities
- develop common positions
- participate in missions like the mission to Sudan
- focus on two or three substantial issues and produce results
- encourage countries to attend Plenary meetings.

Mp3 files of the discussion can be found on the CERP website

16. Preparation for the election of Chair and Vice-Chairs in 2014 - Appointment of the election committee members (Doc 9)

The Chairman explained that by May 2014 he will have completed his second three-years term as CERP Chairman and that he doesn’t intend to present his candidature for another term. For this reason he has asked a number of persons to evaluate the possibility of presenting their candidature for CERP Chair from 2014 onwards. In this context, he reported about the candidature of Mr Ljubisa Mitevski from FYROM as Chair of CERP.

The Chairman also drew the attention to the election of the chairpersons for the CERP Working Groups UPU and Policy. Egil Thorstensen, who has chaired the Working Group UPU in the past, intends to run for a second term in 2014. Ms Anna Karolak, who chairs the WG Policy, has indicated that she will not go for a second term. However, candidates for both positions are welcome.

To enable applications for any of the functions or to support the application of a candidate, the CERP Secretariat will distribute the relevant forms at the beginning of 2014.

Switzerland, Sweden and Poland volunteered to be part of the Election Committee to guarantee the transparency and impartiality of the election procedure.

17. Exchange of information between regulators/ministries

Czech Republic: The Czech bureau of telecommunications, which is also the independent regulator for postal services, has prepared six secondary regulations concerning the amendment to the Postal Services Act implementing the Third Postal Directive. Together with the Postal Services Act, all regulations came into effect on 1 January 2013. This marked the completion of the transposition of the Third Postal Directive, which was then notified to the European Commission.

In February, the Czech bureau of telecommunications granted a postal licence to the Czech Post, which is thus the general service provider until 2017.

All postal operators have to be registered with the Czech bureau of telecommunications. Thirteen operators have been registered to date. The Czech bureau of telecommunications is also the consumer protection authority. Customers of the postal operators are able to lodge their grievances concerning the handling of their complaints to the Czech bureau of telecommunications, which has become the regulator for the entire postal sector. It has general authority regarding the prices for general postal services, for statistics etc.

France: The Minister responsible for postal services, Ms. Fleur Pellerin, wanted a working group to be established composed of high-level experts in the postal sector, consumers, users and government experts who would be responsible for preparing proposals for strategic action for the international postal service.

Germany: The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology is currently conducting a comprehensive study aimed at identifying, in the national postal markets, the opportunities arising from and the challenges posed by technological development and changing customer demand as well as the support which could be given to growth and innovation in the markets by national postal policy strategies. Workshops with all the relevant stakeholders in Germany are an essential element of the study. The findings and recommendations will be published on the website of the Ministry in late 2013.

Poland: In December 2012 Poland approved a postal law implementing the 3rd Postal Directive. Now Poland is systematically finalizing the secondary law.

So far, four ordinances have entered into force in the Polish legal system:

- on the conditions for the provision of universal postal services,
- on the regulatory accounting and universal services calculation of the universal service provider,
- on the net cost calculating of the universal service obligation, and
- on the price cap methodology for tariffs of universal services.

Work is being done on the remaining ordinances and should be completed very soon.

18. Programme of Plenaries (Doc. 9)

The CERP chairman introduced Doc 9 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.

If no host can be found, a basic plenary with duration of only one day will be organized in Germany (Bonn or Mainz).

19. AOB

PostEurop informed about the ongoing negotiations in the European Parliament concerning a data protection regulation. This new regulation would have a direct legal effect without the need for a national transposition. Part of this regulation is an opt-in solution regarding advertising. Whereas this opt-in solution originally aimed at advertising in online services only, the current proposal discussed in the European Parliament foresees this option for physical direct mail too. This may cause a decrease in direct mail up to 50 % in total. Therefore PostEurop has presented together with FEDMA a position paper asking to continue the present regulation for physical direct mail, which is the opt-out solution. Norway informed that the Norwegian law would not allow for a opt-in solution. France mentioned that not only postal operators but also the advertising industry would be affected.

At the end of the meeting the CERP Vice-Chair, Mr Egil Thorstensen, thanked Mr Etienne Defrance from the Belgium NRA who will be retiring soon for the good and competent job he has done in the WG UPU and in CERP and wished him all the best for the future.

Annex

Presentation by European Commission

Presentation by UPU

Presentation by Dr Nikola Trubint

Bonn, 31 July 2013

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CERP Secretariat

U. DAMMANN
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