



**Draft Report of the 49th Plenary in Skopje,
29 – 30 May 2014**

1. Welcome

The CERP chairman welcomed the members and thanked the hosts for organizing the meeting in this beautiful place.

Mr Vlatko Atanasoski welcomed the members and wished a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay. He was looking forward to the exchange of experience facing the different challenges in the postal sector.

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

The agenda was adopted without any comments.

3. Approval of the report of the 48th Plenary meeting in Kristiansand on 23-23 May 2013 (Doc 2 E/F)

Belgium suggested adding a list of participants to each report in order to have an overview who was attending a meeting and in which position.

The report was approved.

4. Report of the Steering Group meeting on 24 September 2013 and on 26 March 2014 (Doc 3a/b)

The Chairman reported about the two Steering Group meetings in Warsaw.

The most important topics were the activities of the Working Groups, the CERP Newsletter, the preparation of the CERP Plenary in Skopje and UPU matters.

5. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/European Commission on 12 November 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 provided information about the ongoing work in the different ERGP working groups. He also informed that ERGP will reflect how it can assist the Commission in the data collection after EUROSTAT has stopped this exercise.

The next meeting will be organized in connection with another meeting where most of the Contact Committee members will be present. The date will be determined later on.

6. Result of the meeting of the Contact Committee CERP/ PostEurop on 14 November 2013 and on 10 April 2014 (Doc 5 and 5a)

The Chairman reported about the meetings in Bern, where the PostEurop Chairman gave an overview of the main results achieved within the latest CEO Forum and the 20th Anniversary PostEurop Plenary Assembly held in Brussels on 18-19 September 2013. The next PostEurop Plenary Assembly will take place in San Marino on 24-25 September 2014. Furthermore PostEurop provided information about their latest development in their Working Groups.

In the second meeting the CERP Chairman presented the “CERP Guide for Expert Missions” to PostEurop and explained the “Working Methods for CERP in UPU matters”. He also highlighted the “Draft letter to the International Bureau (IB) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) concerning European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) contribution concerning clear decision making processes within the UPU” as a first initiative based on the new working method. Further topics focused on the activities of the CERP Working Groups and the latest developments in the PostEurop Working Groups.

7. Report of the Working Group Policy (Doc 6/a/b)

Mrs Anna Karolak-Woźniak reported first about the meeting on 25 September 2013. The discussions mainly focused on presenting CERP as a Restricted Union and how to motivate member countries to contribute to the positions. The WG members also discussed a paper “Working Methods for CERP in UPU matters” and the CERP Guide for Postal Policy in developing UPU member countries.

In the second meeting on 27 March 2014, the Working Group Policy discussed also the reshaping of the Universal Postal Service in New Zealand, the different organizational systems of the postal sector, and the recent regulatory development in member countries. Mrs Karolak-Woźniak presented the CERP Guide for Expert Missions which had to be approved by the CERP Plenary. In this context Mr Nikola Trubint thanked for all efforts of the WG Policy and highlighted that this guide will be very useful in the future.

The CERP Guide for Expert Missions was approved by the Plenary.

8. Report of the Working Group UPU (Doc 7 Rev. 1,7a/b)

Mr Egil Thorstensen reported about the two meetings held on 10 October 2013 and on 18-19 March 2014. He presented the two documents “Working Methods for CERP in UPU matters” and “Draft letter to the International Bureau (IB) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) concerning European Committee for Postal Regulation (CERP) contribution concerning clear decision making processes within the UPU”, which had to be approved by the CERP Plenary.

The document “Working Methods for CERP in UPU matters” was approved without any comments.

The “Draft letter to the International Bureau (IB)...” was revised by an ad hoc group during the Plenary session and then approved. This document is attached.

9. Report of the task Force Communication

The Chairman reported about the second Newsletter in 2013. The topics were the cooperation with the UPU (Memorandum of Understanding), European common positions and an outlook on the forthcoming CERP Plenary in 2014.

The next Newsletter is foreseen for summer 2014.

10. Elections (Doc 8)

- ➔ **CERP Chairperson**
- ➔ **CERP Vice Chairpersons**

The Chairman announced his gratitude to the Vice-Chairpersons and the CERP Secretary for the fruitful cooperation and support during the last years. He also mentioned that it is a great pleasure for him that CERP now is in a position to present the European member countries' views in the UPU and/or the EU context to a greater extent and in a more sustainable way than before.

He then passed the floor to Mr Sten Selander as the spokesman of the Election Committee. He presented the candidatures for the elections:

- Mr Ljubisa Mitevski (FYROM) as Chairman,
- Mrs Anna Karolak-Woźniak (Poland) and Mr Egil Thorstensen (Norway) as Vice-Chairpersons

After that the candidates left the room.

The Plenary elected all candidates – in their absence – by acclamation.

The new Chairman, Mr Ljubisa Mitevski thanked the CERP members for supporting and entrusting him and congratulated the Vice-Chairpersons. He looks forward to a good and fruitful cooperation.

11. Appointment of the Chairpersons of WG Policy, WG UPU and of the Task Force Communication (Doc 9)

The Chairman presented the candidates: Mr Andreas Hach (Austria) as Chair of WG Policy and Mr Egil Thorstensen (Norway) as Chair of WG UPU.

The candidate for the Chair of Task Force Communication, Mr Ulrich Dammann (Germany) withdrew his candidacy but since there was no other candidate he was given the duty to head the Task Force until further notice.

The Plenary elected all candidates by acclamation.

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

Mrs Won-ja Lee gave an overview about the recent developments in the UPU. The main topic was the outcome of e-commerce and the Postal Financial Service forum, major agenda items of the upcoming 2014 CA sessions and discussions of bodies under CA Committees.

She reported about the key messages from the e-commerce forum:

- In most developing countries, the middle class is growing and e-retail service is not well established.
- Biggest trade routes are between Europe, North Americas and Asia.
- E-commerce is a step change for developing economy
- Great opportunity for the postal network
- E-retailers need international delivery solutions which are simple, reliable, visible/transparent, reasonably priced.
- E-retailers will invest in delivery partners, i.e. the postal network

The key messages from the PFS forum were:

- There are huge demands for payment and remittance services that need to be met by a formal channel of good quality,
- The post office network can help to meet this need, as a basic service network for people everywhere,
- Postal financial services can represent a major revenue stream for designated operators.

The presentation is attached.

13. European regulatory matters and State of affairs in ERGP – Presentation by the European Commission

The representative of the European Commission, Mr Denis Sparas, gave a presentation including the regulatory developments in the EU. He reported that the 5th Application Report may be released in the first quarter of 2015 and gave an overview on Postal Statistics.

He also reported about the on-going activities in ERGP.

The presentation is attached.

14. Forum

The forum “The need for change in USO, facing shrinking volume and less public demand” was held in a panel discussion with Mr Denis Sparas (European Commission), Mrs Susanne Czech (EMOTA), Mrs Geraldine Proust (FEDMA), Mr Jean-Paul Forceville (PostEurop), Mr Murray Buchanan (UPU) and Mr Carsten Marckstrøm (Denmark).

It was moderated by Mr Robert Clarke from New Zealand.

He reported that in response to falling revenues for USO services, New Zealand has introduced two main reforms to its universal service requirements. The first is to reduce the number of days per week that deliveries must be made (to 3 per week in urban areas and 5 per week in rural areas); the second is to allow 660 of its 880 required “points of access” to be unstaffed, automated kiosks.

The discussants first explained their views towards the question if something like in New Zealand could be possible in Europe.

In the second part the discussants were asked specific questions on the challenges for the postal sector.

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

15. Exchange of information between regulators/ministries

Mr Nikola Trubint introduced the “International Journal of Postal Communication” to the Plenary. The Idea of this Journal is to create an exchange in all aspects of postal industry. The journal consists of a scientific and a professional part and is published by TCOM Ltd. Further information about this Journal can be found on www.iipcom.org.

The presentation is attached.

16. Programme of Plenaries (Doc. 9)

Till now there is no host country for a next CERP Plenary in 2015. The chairman asked CERP members to evaluate if they could offer to host a meeting in spring 2015.

17. AOB

Belgium thanked Mr Ulrich Dammann for the work done in the past 6 years and wished him all the best for his future work.

Annexes

Letter to the International Bureau
Presentation by UPU
Presentation by European Commission
Presentation by Mr Trubint
Attendance list

Bonn/Skopje, 11 July 2014

A. DAUN
CERP Secretariat

U. DAMMANN
Outgoing CERP Chairman

L. MITEVSKI
CERP Chairman