



**Draft report of the CERP WG Policy meeting
Warsaw, 2013, September 25**

Participants:

Chairmanship: Mrs Anna Karolak (Poland)

Austria: Mr Andreas Hach (Vice-Chair),

Belgium: Joost Callaert,

Hungary: Mrs Györgyi Csóka,

Norway: Mr Egil Thorstensen

Poland: Mr Piotr Łukomski,

Switzerland: Mrs Marilena Corti

CERP Chairman: Mr Ulrich Dammann

UPU: Mrs Won-ja Lee

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

Agenda was approved with no comments.

2. Reaching CERP common positions and presenting CERP as a Restricted Union showing an “European” attitude – how to motivate member countries to contribute to the positions? – discussion.

WG Policy discussed a paper “Working Methods for CERP in UPU matters”. The document was created on the basis of documents approved and applied by Com-ITU and ECC. This document is divided into three parts: first chapter describes the working procedure in preparation and during conferences; second chapter relates to the coordination in preparation of UPU meetings and third chapter provides the rules to follow when developing European Common Proposals (ECPs), which means, that CERP could establish a procedure by which proposals of regulatory nature can be developed and co-signed by CERP members.

It was agreed that the wording of the document should not be changed too much in order to keep all documents concerning ECPs in CEPT parties similar and consistent.

Belgium had doubts if a word “lobbying” couldn’t be changed with, for example, “seeking support” as a word “lobbying” has a negative undertone. The WG also agreed that the ECP could not be in the future at variance with European Union’s Treaties, as majority of CERP member countries are members of the EU.

Participants of the meeting agreed that this is a good idea to have a procedure for ECP for CERP. Also the Chair of WG Policy received such a support from members not able to take part in the meeting itself. The document was further discussed at the WG UPU meeting in October.

3. Items for the blind – consequences of the adoption of proposal 20.7.1.Rev 1 during 25th Doha Congress.

Norway informed that after consultations with Norwegian organisations for blind people, Norwegian Post does not expect any significant change (increase) of mail that is exempted from postal charges.

Other countries did not have any details about the situation in their countries.

Representative from the International Bureau (UPU) informed that the changed article 7.3.2.3 of the Convention is not fully in line with article 18.7 “Items not admitted. Prohibitions” concerning including correspondence in the mail for the blind¹.

4. Cooperation CERP with UPU – CERP Guide for Postal Policy in developing UPU member countries.

Since 2011 CERP is providing expertise for UPU member countries and restricted unions in order to help and facilitate regulation of postal sector in member countries.

During the meeting a draft table of content of the Guide was presented and discussed. The Guide will consist of three main parts: information for CERP experts (gathering information about postal market as well as practical information), general postal policy and summary. At the beginning of the document there will also be an introduction explaining the aim of it.

IB representative noted that there are UPU documents that can be used by experts preparing for their missions, like annual surveys as conducted for example by Direct Marketing Advisory Board or UPU Postal Statistics Yearbook, which contains data from over 200 countries or territories and includes approximately 100 indicators of postal development.

It was agreed that the development of the document (i.e. Guide) should be entrusted to persons listed on the CERP Experts list, lead by WG Policy Chair. CERP Sekretariat will contact the group to organise work on the Guide.

Next step would be to decide how to make the document known to member countries and restricted unions of the UPU. One possibility is to present the document to the CA

5. Recent regulatory developments in member countries.

Norway informed that after parliamentary elections, that took place in September, the decision whether Norway will introduce the third postal directive, will be made.

6. Next meeting.

Place and venue to be determined in due time.

¹ **Article 7.3.2.3:** items for the blind shall include correspondence, literature in whatever format including sound recordings, and equipment or materials of any kind made or adapted to assist blind persons in overcoming the problems of blindness, as specified in the Letter Post Regulations.

Article 18.7: Printed papers and **items** for the blind: 7.1 shall not bear any inscription or contain any item of correspondence (...).

7. AOB.

Under this point of the agenda Poland asked Switzerland about the legal status of Swiss Postal Bank. Swiss representative informed that postal group comprises of three companies: Post, Bank and Public Transport. Postal Bank is 100% state owned and there is no plan to privatise it.

Another subject were ETOEs. There was a lengthy discussion concerning the status of ETOEs in member countries and ways that countries are dealing with foreign companies running postal business on their territory. In general it is up to a member country how it will deal with a foreign postal operators and how the postal items will be treated. Another issue is UPU documentation which can be used by a foreign operator only if the designated operator of the member country, where ETOE is to be set up, will agree.

Anna Karolak
WG Policy Chair