Dear Reader,

This first CERP newsletter is the starting point of a new era when the organization is going to stimulate discussions amongst stakeholders in the postal field.

Over and above CERP would like to share the experience of its members as well as benefiting from the findings other parties concerned have reached.

In order to promote this process the CERP newsletter will be issued regularly twice a year, normally in January and July. Special Newsletters may in addition inform due to extraordinary events.

The newsletter is free for anybody and interested parties are invited to contribute to the content.

This first newsletter will provide information on
- the role of CERP;
- the (new) CERP structure;
- the results achieved so far, including download links to reports having been approved;
- projects for the near future.

In the following regular newsletters you will regularly find information on
- the main topics of the last CERP Plenary;
- PT activities during the last 6 months;
- reports approved by the last plenary including download links;
- new Projects;
- other relevant developments.

If you or somebody else who may be interested have not yet been included in the distribution list please register for free at cerp@bnetza.de.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please get in contact with me at Ulrich.Dammann@bnetza.de.

I hope, this newsletter will find your interest and sympathy.

Ulrich Dammann
(CERP Chairman)
CERP is a committee of the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations and, as such, is a restricted union of the Universal Postal Union. Over and above that, CERP is the relevant forum where European postal regulators meet at regular intervals to discuss and develop common viewpoints. As sixty percent of the 48 CERP member countries are EU members, it is obvious that the majority of regulators have a keen interest in addressing EU matters too.

CERP is in regular contact with the relevant stakeholders in the postal market. These contacts take place regularly on contact committees (European Commission, PostEurop, European Express Association) and during the CERP Plenary Session that is held twice a year, where external stakeholders are invited to share their views on the postal market, their needs and the developments achieved so far.

CERP will continue to underline the need for transparent, equal, fair and harmonized postal regulation throughout Europe for the benefit of the whole postal industry as well as for customers and consumers and will continue to devote its efforts to accomplishing these goals.

The new CERP structure

CERP has recently restructured its organization in order to enable the organization to rise more effectively to the challenges arising from the liberalization of the European postal market. The new structure will allow a more result-orientated approach to be taken within the different project teams (PTs) and working groups (WGs). This will lead to guidelines and best practice solutions which will stipulate harmonized and non-discriminatory application of the national legislations in CERP counties and naturally of the Postal Directives throughout the European Union.

The new CERP structure provides three levels:

The Plenary is still the body where documents have to be approved.

Two WGs have been set up:

- WG "Policy" will check the reports by the PTs from the angle of legislation,
- WG "Application" is responsible for the aspect of application within the regular work of the National Regulators Authorities (NRAs).

The basic work is performed in nine PTs:

- Cost Accounting and Price Regulation,
- Financing of the USO,
- Consumer Issues,
- Statistics,
- National Regulatory Authorities,
- Sustainable Development,
- Market Supervision,
- Policy,
- Universal Service.

Projects in the near future

The majority of projects are directly linked to provisions set forth in the Postal Directive and responds to the preoccupation of the CERP members. Recently the "Guidelines for Calculating the Net Cost of the Universal Service Obligations" and the third report on NRAs dealing with licensing, competition and the implementation of the Third Postal Directive were approved. In May 2009 the second revision of "CERP Recommendation on best Practices for Cost Accounting Rules" has been finalized, which highlights the importance of providing NRAs with transparent systems and comprehensive information.

Next steps are the development of reports aimed at highlighting the importance of achieving harmonized and fair application of the third Postal Directive within the European Union:

- A guideline for pricing within the framework of a competitive postal market will be developed until the end of this year.
- In the area of access to infrastructure, a survey on current and required access channels with reference to Article 11a of the Third Postal Directive will be undertaken.
- The access models in different countries will be subject to investigation in order to define best practices.
- The applied and foreseen licensing models will be analyzed and a comparison of quality of service levels will be drawn up.
- Methods of implementing and managing a compensation fund will be analyzed.
- A best practice recommendation for consumer relations including complaints management as well as a questionnaire on consumer needs will be developed.

First results will be available after the next CERP Plenary which will take place in Monaco on 18-20 November 2009.

The following reports approved until now can be downloaded from CERP’s website www.cept-cerp.org (General Information – History – Documentation):

- Cost Accounting Rules – Recommendation
- Cost Accounting Rules II
- Cost Accounting Rules III
- Report Cost Accounting and Price Control
- Report Universal Service and its Financing
- Report Calculating the burden/benefit of USO
- Guidelines for Calculating the Net Cost of the Universal Service Obligations
- Report Implementation of CEN Standards
- Report Implementation of CEN Standards II
- Report NRA
- Report NRA Phase II
- Report NRA Phase III
- Report relation with consumers
- Report Implementation of EN13850