Dear Reader

In this second CERP Newsletter in 2013 you will find information on CERP's current work and an outlook on the forthcoming CERP Plenary in 2014.

I hope you will find this Newsletter interesting, and would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Yours sincerely

Ulrich Dammann
(CERP Chairman)
Cooperation with the UPU

As we said in the last CERP Newsletter, CEPT and the UPU have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and thus CERP will intensify its engagement in the UPU’s work.

To this end CERP has started to draft a guide for its experts. The guide aims to provide a field manual for the execution of experts' missions in UPU projects supporting postal reform processes in other UPU member countries.

The final guide will provide practical help on personal preparations as well as best practices on how to set the aim of the mission, how to receive all the necessary information including all the relevant elements, and how to structure the final report.

This guide will be beneficiary for both the experts, as they will know exactly what is expected, and for the benefitting country, because it will be informed of the desired outcome of the project.

The guide is expected to be finalized in spring 2014 and will be subject to approval at the next CERP Plenary.

European Common Positions

In the past, different modes of “Code of Conduct” have been established to enable CERP to present a European view at UPU meetings. Experience has shown however that none of these agreements has been workable in the sense of a European Common Position being reached.

Therefore the May 2013 CERP Plenary assembly decided to develop a working mechanism, taking into account the existing procedures in the other CEPT committees, Com-ITU and ECC which have already proved workable in recent years. The procedure foreseen includes on the one hand the drafting of European Common Proposals and on the other, coordination in preparation for UPU meetings.

The draft document “Working Methods for CERP in UPU Matters” has been discussed and approved by the CERP Working Groups Policy and UPU already. It will be submitted to the next CERP Plenary for approval.

49th CERP Plenary, 29–30 May 2014

On 29–30 May 2014 the next CERP Plenary meeting will take place in Skopje, the capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The major topics of this Plenary will be the election of the CERP chair and vice-chairs as well as of the CERP Working Group chairs.

The forum discussion will tackle the delicate point “The need for change in USO facing shrinking volumes and less public demand”, where stakeholders will offer their opinion from different angles of the postal market.