Dear Reader,

This CERP Newsletter includes the outcome of the discussions at the last CERP Plenary meeting in Norway this May regarding the future work of CERP.

Furthermore, it highlights the main points of the Memorandum of Understanding between CEPT and the UPU.

The topic “CERP Mission to Sudan” provides an overview of a project aiming to provide assistance to Sudan in developing a new postal strategy, undertaken from October 2012 to June 2013 on the basis of an agreement between CERP and COMESA, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Also provided is information on the result of a survey carried out in the CERP Working Group Policy showing the interest of NRAs in future postal regulation.

Finally, in the section “News” you will find information on recent developments in the CERP member countries.

I hope you will enjoy this first CERP Newsletter in 2013.

Yours sincerely

Ulrich Dammann
(CERP Chairman)
As part of the 28th CERP Plenary meeting which took place on 23 and 24 May 2013 in Kristiansand in southern Norway at the kind invitation of the Norwegian NRA a forum discussion entitled “CERP – What’s next?” was held.

This took the form of a panel discussion moderated by Tobias Katzschmann from the German regulator. The discussants were John Hearn, an expert from Ireland, Botond Szébeny from PostEurop, Won-ja Lee from the International Bureau of the UPU, Torstein Olsen from the Norwegian NRA, Udo Seidl from the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology in Germany and Robert Pochmarski from the European Commission.

The discussants first explained their views on CERP and its future role. They thought that CERP could be a platform for all the members to exchange opinions/views. On UPU issues, CERP should focus on providing the UPU member countries with the European experience, exchanging views on POC and CA topics and on topics of the Congress in Istanbul.

Furthermore, CERP should cooperate closely with PostEurop as a Restricted Union and should also cooperate with developing countries. All the discussants agreed that the active participation of the member countries was a pre-condition.

In the second part of the Forum the 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 the UPU, strengthen its position with PostEurop as a Restricted Union and contribute proactively in developing proposals to influence the UPU activities.

Furthermore, CERP should seek to develop common positions, participate in missions like the mission to Sudan and focus on two or three substantial issues and produce results. Finally, it seemed essential to encourage countries to attend Plenary meetings.

An Mp3 file of the discussion can be found on the CERP website.

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations and the Universal Postal Union have agreed to work more closely together on issues of technical cooperation and to share more information and best practice on regulatory issues.

The CERP Chairman, Ulrich Dammann, in his capacity as Co-President of CEPT, and Bishar A. Hussein, Director General of the UPU, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to this effect at UPU headquarters on 25 April 2013.
CEPT already participates in the UPU’s work, particularly through CERP. It has supported the joint implementation of UPU regional development plans and provided expertise in seminars for regulators in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The MOU establishes a cooperation framework between the two parties in areas of common interest, such as the Universal Postal Service obligation and postal regulation and policy.

CEPT and the UPU will promote and exchange best practices among countries and Restricted Unions. They will cooperate in specialized studies and on projects within their respective fields.

CERP Mission to Sudan

The project started in summer 2012 with bilateral consultations between CERP and COMESA to establish the special tasks of the CERP expert team: the development of a draft postal policy, the drafting of a postal law, an assessment report including a marketing analysis and the provision of a costing of postal services guidelines.

The CERP project team included three CERP experts:

Nikola Trubint from Serbia, project leader, Ljubisa Mitevski from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Petr Angelis from the Czech Republic (second, fourth and sixth from left).

A first fact-finding mission to Sudan was undertaken from 16 to 19 December 2012 when the experts met with all the Sudan postal stakeholders. Based on the findings of this first mission a draft Postal Sector Legislation Policy and Market Analysis for Sudan was submitted.

The second mission to Sudan took place from 9 to 14 June 2013 and included a workshop with the relevant stakeholders. The final mission report covers the formulation of a postal sector policy to guide the development of a new postal law and supplementary regulations, the acquisition of comprehensive knowledge of the postal market to help define regulatory procedures, the definition of regulatory responsibilities, functions and processes, the introduction of a cost accounting study with the emphasis on the cost of universal service and the development of capacity for national postal operators to fulfil the universal service obligation.
News

At its 33rd Plenary meeting on 9 November 2012 the technical committee "Postal Services" of the Committee for European Standardisation (CEN/TC331) decided to begin drawing up the new work mandate for the committee. It was decided to consult a number of stakeholders, including CERP.

The CERP Working Group Policy therefore asked CERP members to identify areas of regulatory interest where they see a need for developing standardised measures in the future. The questionnaire was answered by 27 CERP member countries and the responses showed the following topics with a high level of consent for future standardisation:

- Letter Post: Measurement of transit time for multi-operator scenarios / Measurement of transit time for partial pipeline
- Hybrid/Electronic services: Transit time and consistency / Choice of the recipient for the nature of the support for the message (printed or electronic) / Security and privacy of the data
- Access: Distance to post-boxes / Distance to post offices / Complaint services
- Parcels: Measurement of transit time / Measurement of transit time for multi-operator scenarios / Measurement of transit time for partial pipeline / Damage/Theft / Wrong/incorrect delivery / Technical standards for parcel delivery boxes

This result was presented at the 34th CEN/TC331 Plenary meeting in Stockholm on 3 May 2013.

Future Postal Standardisation

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.