



*Press release*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> ERGP Stakeholders Forum**

Brussels, 18 September 2019

More than 200 representatives of key stakeholders met in Brussels on 18 September for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ERGP Stakeholders Forum. The challenges that the postal sector is facing in Europe and worldwide were discussed, as well as the responses that postal regulators and the European Commission may give to overcome them.

Dialogue with the stakeholders such as postal providers, e-commerce providers, online platforms, postal associations and with the international administrations dealing with the postal sector is indispensable. Therefore, different perspectives and experiences from outside Europe were presented.

After the opening of the Stakeholder Forum by ERGP Chair Mr. João Cadete de Matos, Mr Spyros Pantelis (incoming 2020 ERGP Chair and Vice President of EETT), together with the co-chairs of the ERGP working groups, presented the 2020 ERGP draft Work Programme, which is under public consultation until 27 September. This draws from the draft ERGP Medium Term Strategy for 2020-2022, which is under public consultation until 20 September.

Jack Hamande, ERGP Outgoing Chair and Executive Board Member of BIPT, moderated the session “Postal Regulation? What postal regulation” which collected experiences and views about which postal regulation is needed in the light of a changing postal environment, starting from the ERGP Opinion on the



future regulatory review, [recently published](#). It was stressed how competitive the parcel market has become. The participants also noted the importance of universal service obligations in addressing the users' needs and highlighted the prominence of data driven regulation through the monitoring capacities of NRAs.

Mr. Timo Pesonen, Director-General DG GROW from the European Commission, highlighted the priorities of the European Commission for the future of the postal sector: "We shall engage with all the postal stakeholders on the implementation of the regulation on cross border parcel delivery service and on the review of the Postal Service Directive".

In the Session "How is E-commerce shaping the postal market and regulation?", it was clear that the emergence of new players in the e-commerce market offers new opportunities for consumers and postal providers but also creates new regulatory challenges. The postal and e-commerce market changed dramatically in the recent years and become part of the Digital Single Market Strategy. Therefore, we should ensure that any regulation of the postal, e-commerce and digital market promotes innovative solutions, facilitates access, adequately addresses new consumers' needs and that the single EU market is achieved.

From the discussion in the Forum during the session "International mail market: to regulate or not regulate?" it was clear that postal issues are becoming more global and that national decisions are more interrelated with the decisions taken by other administrations. This discussion had as background the UPU Extraordinary Congress, which will take place in Geneva on 24 and 25 September 2019, the possible withdrawal of the United States from UPU and the proposals on the review of the UPU terminal dues system.



As mentioned by Mr. Bishar Hussein, Director General of the UPU International Bureau: “we stand today at a critical crossroads. There are risks for the UPU and we appeal the European countries to come to the UPU Extraordinary Congress with a positive mind to solve them.”

Mr. João Cadete de Matos, ERGP Chair in 2019 and Chairman of ANACOM, stressed that “ERGP is becoming an indispensable actor and interlocutor for the postal regulation in the European Union, capable of providing expert advice and opinions of the highest level. The ERGP Stakeholders Forum is becoming a reference Forum, being the meeting point for regulators, postal, digital, delivery and e-commerce sector representatives”.

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