

POSTAL NEWS

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Posted: 6.50pm Tuesday 10 June 2008

1. **CWU conference: postal workers need action to beat attacks**

Delegates to CWU conference debated the union's policies (Pic: Socialist Worker)
Postal delegates at the CWU union conference were set to discuss proposals for a national strike against attacks on pensions, mail centre and delivery office closures, and the threat of further privatisation of Royal Mail as Socialist Worker went to press.

Earlier this year Royal Mail closed its final salary pension scheme and introduced a new career average scheme.

This means increased employee contributions for smaller benefits, and an increase in the retirement age.

Since then the closure of dozens of mail centres has been announced, raising the possibility that thousands of postal workers will lose their jobs.

Delegates argue that the government's "liberalisation" of the postal industry has caused Royal Mail to enter into financial crisis, and this is what is driving many of the attacks that the union currently faces.

The CWU's postal executive has tabled a motion that calls for a campaign of strike action that rolls the issues together into "one big fight".

If the motion is successful, a nationwide ballot will start during the summer, with strike action possible in the autumn.

Further motions will seek confirmation of a strike and national demonstration during Labour's September conference.

Delegates greeted sacked union activists from Burslem, in Stoke, with a prolonged standing ovation after they spoke out about how management has attempted to smash the union at their office.

The National Appeals Panel is currently considering whether three union reps, and three former union reps, were unfairly dismissed earlier this year, with a verdict expected in August.

The CWU has launched a national appeal on behalf of the sacked activists so that they can be paid their wages while they await the appeal's outcome.

One of the sacked union activists, who cannot be named, told Socialist Worker, "Royal Mail hope they can break the union at Burslem.

"This financial appeal helps give us peace of mind because we know that we will be able to keep putting food on the table while we keep up the fight with the company."

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2. Dutch govt to liberalise postal market from Jan 1, 2009

06.11.08, 2:38 AM ET

AMSTERDAM (Thomson Financial) - Dutch Economic Affairs State Secretary Frank Heemskerk promised the Dutch coalition government parties on Tuesday that he will work towards liberalising the Dutch postal market from January 1, 2009, Dutch media reported.

In May, the Dutch government decided against opening up the postal market to competition on July 1, 2008, stressing there are too many uncertainties to allow for full liberalisation.

But Heemskerk was confronted with a parliamentary motion backed by the coalition parties Christian Democrat CDA, Labour PvdA and the Christian Union on Tuesday in which January 1, 2009, was suggested as a new targeted date for liberalisation, Dutch media reported.

Heemskerk said he will maximise efforts to meet the targeted date, but added that liberalisation will still be subject to two conditions, namely a level playing field in Europe and good workplace conditions for postal deliverers, the reports added.

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3. Harvey Software Enhances Partnership with Endicia(R) Qualified U.S. Postal Service

Posted : Tue, 10 Jun 2008 14:01:16 GMT

Author : Harvey Software, Inc.

FORT MYERS, Fla., June 10 /PRNewswire/ -- Harvey Software, Inc. announced today a partnership with Endicia(R) to provide qualified high volume shippers special access to U.S. Postal Service (USPS) shipping services with Endicia technology. This enables key customers that use Harvey Software's Computerized Parcel System (CPS(TM)) and Endicia to be eligible for free Endicia monthly service. This complements the discounted commercial postage prices which are already available to Endicia users.

"Companies use our CPS to get every advantage possible for their shipping," said Bert Hamilton, Harvey Software's President and CEO. "By partnering with Endicia, the leading Internet Postage service provider, we've enhanced CPS to offer even more competitive choices for online shipping and fulfillment needs. There is no easier way to ship with the Post Office(TM)."

Every month that a shipper uses CPS with Endicia Professional(TM) and prints more than \$5,000 in qualified postage, they will receive a free month of Endicia service. Shippers are responsible for the cost of postage, extra services, and insurance fees. Qualified postage is defined as postage for these classes: Priority Mail(R), Express Mail(R), Priority Mail International(R), Express Mail International(R), and Global Express Guaranteed(R). Endicia reserves the right to cancel this free service offering at any time, without affecting free service earned by shippers prior to such cancellation.

CPS with Endicia lets shippers print postage directly on their shipping labels with just a computer, printer, and Internet connection. This forms a solid shipping platform ideal for online sellers, retailers, fulfillment providers and other direct to consumer sellers and shippers.

CPS with Endicia Professional offers the following:

- Printing the postage barcode without displaying the actual postage amount paid for the package.
- The ability to purchase parcel insurance online.
- Pre-filled customs forms.
- Bulk acceptance scans for packages.

To learn more about CPS and purchasing postage online, visit:

<http://www.harveysoft.com/Endicia/index.htm> .

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Harvey Software Contact:

Steve Stevenson, 800-231-0296, <http://www.harveysoft.com> .

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