

POSTAL NEWS

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- 1. EU Postal Operators Failing To Communicate. July 14, 2008.**
- 2. Western Union's money transfer service thru' postal dept launched. July 14, 2008.**
- 3. Bringing postal services into 21st century. July 12, 2008.**
- 4. Privatize postal service? Sure, if you want higher prices and less delivery. July 12, 2008.**
- 5. Postal museum to chronicle Iran's history. July 12, 2008.**

1. EU Postal Operators Failing To Communicate

14 July 2008 by David Lynch - © Hellmail.co.uk

Swiss Post and Royal Mail have been praised for their regular news bulletins by Hellmail, the European postal industry news site.

Editor for Hellmail, Steve Lawson, said "Many Euro postal operators have been rather slow to market themselves and communicate in the wider context since Liberalisation began." he said.

"Some postal operators have been quick to seize the opportunity to tell the rest of Europe what they're doing, but sadly many produce little or no news output at all. Poland is poor with only news on postage stamps in English but it's main news is wholly in Polish and for the rest of Europe that can be a real problem given the limited range of online translators. Spain too only publishes news in Spanish which can give rise to all kinds of problems in terms of translating."

He said that some postal operators should be praised for their efforts. Swiss Post particularly, with a whole section devoted to media communications including an impressive image library. Royal Mail too has a dedicated press office with almost daily news.

"Oddly, Lithuania scores well in terms of news output, but France's La Poste, Turkey, Slovakia and Slovenia fall far behind. Italy, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria rarely update their news, The Ukraine, Latvia and Luxembourg have no translation facility at all for news, and Romania stopped producing translated news altogether in 2007."

Hellmail found that most web sites were reasonably easy to navigate except for Denmark & Greece which had a Flash into that was very difficult to get past. Swiss Post and Royal Mail scored the highest for news output, closely followed by DHL, Malta, and Russian Post.

"Clearly there is much room for improvement and we have emailed most of these operators asking them to look closer at the way they communicate. Obviously some European postal services are heavily tied into state ownership, and in some cases, political regimes, but even so, with Europe pushing for closer ties under postal liberalisation, some countries have simply failed to exploit the potential here. From our perspective, its so important that smaller European countries can be heard. We really do want to know what they're about." he said.

Mr Lawson said UK parcel carriers also needed to pay more attention to news output:

"Its surprising how many UK licenced postal operators put up stories with no date on them. Lack of detail like that makes such efforts pointless. The vast majority, with the exception of Dutch-owned TNT Post, seem to lack the initiative or personnel needed to make the best of their media relations."

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2. Western Union's money transfer service thru' postal dept launched

BUSINESS REPORT. July 14, 2008.

Western Union's Money Transfer Service through Bangladesh Postal Department was launched yesterday, making an easy way for the expatriates to send home money from abroad.

This facility will be available initially at 450 post offices across the country enabling people to receive remittances easily and quickly. The service will be extended to other post offices of the country in phases.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Social Welfare and Posts and Telecommunications Brig Gen (Retd) MA Malek formally inaugurated the service by handing over the money sent by an expatriate from Malaysia to his beneficiary.

Postal Department Director General Mobashsher-ur Rahman, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, Posts and Telecommunications Ministry Secretary Iqbal Mahmud, Western Union Country Director Ratish Kumar and Country Manager Syed Mohammad Kamal and Additional DG (postal services) AKM Rafiqul Alam was present at the function.

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3. Bringing postal services into 21st century

By Marianna Pissa

PERSONALISED stamps, carrying your photograph or even the logo of an organisation and wiring money from Cyprus to other countries, are some of the new services that will be added soon by Department of Postal Services of the Ministry of Communications.

The Director of the Postal Services, Andreas Gregoriou yesterday announced that these services will be available to the public before the end of 2008.

“In our efforts to modernise and upgrade the services, innovative proposals have been placed,” he said.

In the past, the Cyprus postal service has been notoriously unreliable, attracting several warnings and fines from the EU over its efficiency, profitability and running. In line with EU law, plans are already under way for its deregulation.

Reporting on the services of the Postal Department, Gregoriou said, “We are in the process of making use of the internet to link all the postal offices with a unified network system.”

Presenting the organisation’s new customer charter, Communications Minister Nicos Nicolaides said Cypriot post offices have published the charter so that citizens are aware of the services that are offered, and the rights that they have as users of these services.

“Cypriot post offices have the responsibility of providing quality postal services in logical and affordable prices everywhere,” Nicolaides added.

Gregoriou also announced that a new privately-owned building will be built where the present central post office stands (in Strovolos’ Prodromou Street) and new offices of the postal services will be established there.

The charter includes a short description of the services offered. Forty thousand copies have been published and they are available to pick up at all post offices.

In Cyprus, the post offices offer their services through an organised network that is comprised by fifty-two post offices and 1,100 postal agencies.

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4. Privatize postal service? Sure, if you want higher prices and less delivery Saturday, July 12, 2008Multimedia

In response to "Postal service should be private enterprise" (July 8): As a retired postal worker I must confess that mistakes occur at the post office, as they do at many

businesses. Who's perfect? Misdelivered mail, supply shortages and sometimes even stamp shortages at times of postal rate increases do happen.

I do not find that making the postal service a private enterprise will somehow remedy that. The same mistakes will happen, as people, whether in the public or private sector, err.

I can tell you, however, what would happen: Stamp prices would go up for the general public as the new, private owners lowered stamp prices for the large-scale mailing businesses. Uniform pricing to the public would be a thing of the past. Without uniform pricing, stamp prices could be set at different amounts depending on your geographic location.

It's a lot more expensive servicing rural and remote areas of the country, compared to large cities. I believe the letter mailed from Canton to San Francisco might cost just a little more than one sent from Canton to Massillon. The new, private owners would want to make sure they were compensated for the much larger mailing distance.

Oh, and we could all kiss six-day delivery good-bye. The private sector might want to deliver just a few days a week to cut costs. They would have to keep their stockholders happy.

Maybe we should all think of ways to improve what we have. I am sure the postal service would encourage everyone to write to them and let them know ways that they could improve their service to everyone.

Ben Franklin had the right idea: a government agency that supplies uniform service at a uniform price to allow people to communicate with one another and stay linked as a nation.

TIM LICHTENWALTER, SANDY TOWNSHIP,

TUSCARAWAS COUNTY

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5. Postal museum to chronicle Iran's history

Sat, 12 Jul 2008 14:27:48

The building housing Iran's Postal Museum

Tehran will be home to the largest postal and telecom museum in the Middle East to chronicle the 2,500-year history of Iran's postal system.

Among the displays to be featured at the new 18,000 square-meter compound are stamp collections which date back to the Qajar dynasty as well as more contemporary collections from the Pahlavi era.

The museum will also include collections from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which made special use of the postage stamp as a medium to deliver its political, religious and social message after the Islamic Revolution.

Alireza Berangi, the head of public relations at Iran's Post Museum, believes the ambitious venture will eventually also help to bring the country's postal system to international standards.

"The largest postal and telecommunication museum enjoys the fruitful cooperation of the Universal Postal Union's 192 members states," he said.

The museum is sponsored by Iran's Telecommunications Company and will highlight the evolution of the postal service into a modern telecommunications industry.

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

E-mail address : chairulanwar49@operamail.com, uyungchairul@plasa.com.