

POSTAL NEWS

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1. **Libya has been selected for membership in Universal Postal Union's Governing**

2008-08-11

Great Jamahiriya has been selected for membership in the Governing and Postal Investment Councils of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the period 2009-2012.

Selection of Great Jamahiriya came in the Union's 24th conference being held in Geneva, in recognition of its success through its membership in several specialized agencies' councils and the United Nation's world organizations; among of which, the Security Council.

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August 11, 2008, 13:01

2. **Russia suspends sea and postal links with Georgia**

Sea and postal connections between Russia and Georgia have been cut in connection with the ongoing conflict in the breakaway republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The Russian ship "Mikhail Svetlov" was due to depart from the southern port of Sochi for Georgia's Batumi at 6pm on Monday.

However, the sailing has been cancelled due to reasons beyond control of the Russian side, reported the Itar-Tass news agency.

The Deputy Head of Russia's Black Sea Sochi port said a decision to cancel the voyage was taken after officials were told Batumi in Georgia was no longer receiving vessels.

Earlier, it was reported that postal services to and from Georgia have also been cut.

Russia's Transport Ministry suspended air links with Georgia on August 9 because of Tbilisi's military offensive in South Ossetia.

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3. UAE elected member of two key UPU councils

Posted: 11-08-2008 , 11:56 GMT

The 24th Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress, currently in session in Geneva, has elected the United Arab Emirates to two important councils for 2009-2012, marking a significant victory for the Emirates Post Group delegation.

The UAE is now the member of the 40-member Council of Administration (CA) and the 40-member Postal Operations Council (POC). The UAE was already a member of the CA for the past four years.

The Council of Administration's role is to ensure continuity of the UPU's work between Congresses, supervise its activities and study regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues. The Council approves the biennial budget and the accounts of the Union.

The Postal Operations Council deals with technical and operational issues. It promotes the introduction of new postal products and makes recommendations to member countries concerning standards for technological, operational or other processes. Its agenda includes helping postal services to modernize and upgrade their products.

“Getting elected to the two most important bodies of the UPU is a great honour for the UAE. It reflects the UAE's growing reputation as a modern and progressive nation devoted to contributing to global issues,” said Abdulla Al Daboos, President of Emirates Post Holding Group. “It also represents a victory for our delegation that worked hard to win the two posts.”

“Emirates Post now has a greater responsibility towards the development and upgrading of postal services,” said Ibrahim Bin Karam, CEO of Emirates Post. “Both the councils consist of several developed countries as well as developing countries. Emirates Post is confident of making meaningful contribution to the development of postal services, with a special focus on the Arab world.”

Meanwhile, the Congress formally announced that the next UPU Congress would be held in Doha, Qatar, in 2012. The Congress is held once in four years. This will be the 25th congress in the history of the UPU.

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4. UN Stamps Out Anti-Semitism and Elects Israel to Postal Council

by Baruch Gordon

(IsraelNN.com) For the first time in the history of the organization, the Postal Operations Council of the United Nations' Universal Postal Union elected the Israel Postal Service to serve on its professional decision-making body.

Israel has been a member of the Universal Postal Union since December 1949.

The 24th Congress of the UN's Postal Union voted Israel to the decision-making body.
www.upu.int

The Postal Operations Council makes decisions relating to international postal services, financial issues and setting standards in quality of service. Israel will serve on the council for four years.

According to an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson, the election of Israel to international organizations is virtually impossible due to the anti-Israeli atmosphere generally prevailing in the United Nations institutions. Thus, every vote won is the result of a complex process of bilateral negotiations in the multilateral context.

Itzhak Levanon, Israel's Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, said: "This is a significant achievement for Israel in the framework of UN institutions. We do not enjoy many such events, and this success leaves us hopeful for the future. I hope that this will herald further Israeli achievements at the UN institutions in Geneva."

Israel's election by almost 90 votes is the result of almost two years' work, and of cooperation between the Israel Foreign Ministry, the Israel Postal Company and the Ministry of Communications.

The 24th Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) began in its home country of Switzerland July 23 and will conclude on Tuesday. More than 1,500 delegates representing the 191 member countries of the organization, as well as observers, are attending the sessions.

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5. USPS offers help sessions to eBay users

August 10, 2008

The U.S. postal service will hold meetings in the next two weeks in Cambridge City, Liberty and Connersville to help residents use the online sales site and also use the U.S. Postal Service's online shipping options.

The postal service will supply free Priority packaging to homes and the carrier will pick up packages with online postage labels at no additional charge. Free eBay packets with step-by-step shipping instructions are available at the post offices.

Meetings are at 10 a.m. and noon at each location.

Wednesday, Aug. 13 --Union County Public Library, 2 E. Seminary St., Liberty;
Thursday, Aug. 14 -- Fayette County Public Library, 828 N. Grand Ave.,
Connersville; Wednesday, Aug. 20 -- Cambridge City Post Office, 227 W. Main St.,
Cambridge City.

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6. UPS knocks on the door with £7.8bn approach to Dutch rival

By Liam Vaughan

Last Updated: 11:32pm BST 10/08/2008

US Delivery giant United Parcel Service (UPS) is looking to bolster its presence in Europe with a €10bn (£7.8bn) bid for Dutch rival TNT.

The two sides are understood to be in early-stage talks about a potential tie-up that would challenge Royal Mail's position in the UK market and could lead to a raft of other deals within the global express-delivery sector.

Rising fuel costs continue to hit courier businesses hard, forcing the largest players to consider combining forces in order to remain competitive. The industry's biggest deal to date was in 2004 when Deutsche Post, the owner of the DHL express service, acquired Exel, the UK-based logistics group, for £3.7bn.

UPS, which has a market value of about \$66.2bn (£34.5bn) and dominates the American delivery market with rival FedEx, has appointed investment bank Morgan Stanley as adviser.

FedEx, which is just over half the size of UPS, has yet to rule itself out of bidding for TNT. It is understood that FedEx has previously expressed an interest in TNT's parcel division but is less keen on its slower-growing postal division.

Sources have suggested UPS may consider offloading the postal arm of the business to a third-party bidder.

TNT, which is being advised by Goldman Sachs, serves more than 200 countries and employs 161,500 people. The company is listed in Amsterdam and has a market value of €9.6bn.

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7. Kuwait participates in international postal body administration

GENEVA: Kuwait will, for the first time, attend the Universal Postal Service's (UPU) Council of Administration (CA) as an elected member.

Eight Arab countries, Algeria, Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, were elected to the 40 member CA on Wednesday. Kenya is currently chairing the UPU CA as the 41st member.

Kuwait will be represented at the meeting by Soud Al-Asousi, Saeed Al-Mazidi, Saleh Al-Khataf and Wafaa Gougou, who comprise a delegation from the Ministry of Communication

Director of International Postal Relations and Marketing Saeed Al-Mazidi told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) that the election of eight Arab members to the CA would boost Kuwait's role.

He added that this would also help improve postal services and bring them to modern, international standards.

Earlier on Wednesday, Communications Undersecretary Engineer Abdulaziz Al-Osaimi said the election of his country as CA member was a great success for Kuwaiti diplomacy.

Head of the Kuwaiti mission in Geneva Ambassador Dharar Razzooqi leads the Kuwaiti delegation at the UPU Congress.

The UPU's 24th Congress elected Qatar as the host of the next Congress in 2012.

More than 2,200 participants assembled to take part in the 24th Universal Postal Congress, which kicked off in Geneva on July 23 and will continue through to August 13. -KUNA

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