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Post & Logistics Global Bulletin

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Switzerland: Rejection of a hurried liberalization of the postal sector

UNI's Swiss affiliate, Syndicat de la Communication reports that on 2 September, the Commission on Telecommunications of the National Council refused the project of the State Council to reduce, through a simple ruling, the reserved area from 100g to 50g letters by 1st April 2009. This decision is in line with that taken by the Commission on Telecommunications of the Council of States which also rejected this project on 19 August. Both Commissions now demand that they be part of the whole liberalization process when the revision of the postal law takes place in order to allow the Swiss population to take part in the debate. The Syndicat de la Communication completely agrees with this demand since the reduction of the reserved area by a simple ruling would be suspicious in terms of democracy.

On 16 September, the State Council went even further in that direction by deciding to remove postal liberalization from its legislative programme for the next four years. The Syndicat de la Communication now expects the Federal Council to renounce the hurried reduction of the monopoly to 50g letters. Indeed the liberalization of the postal sector must be treated as a whole in the context of the revision of the postal law.

More information from the Syndicat de la Communication can be found at:

<http://www.gewerkschaftkom.ch/index.aspx?PID=1.2.0.188.0.0.0.188.0.N.0.N.0.0.0>

France: UNI says NO to the privatisation of La Poste in Paris - Demonstration

On 23 September, a UNI delegation supported French postal workers fighting against the privatisation of La Poste. UNI joined the 3000 postal workers, postal users, elected representatives and trade unions demonstrating in the streets of Paris. Many more demonstrations took place across France. A strike also took place at La Poste, which was followed by 40% of workers according to Unions. "The privatization of La Poste is a threat; a threat to employment as we all as to postal users by undermining the access of all to a public service, especially in rural regions. In the current context of the financial crisis, the privatization of La Poste, does not make sense", said UNI's General Secretary,



Philip Jennings.

The privatisation project of La Poste was announced in July by Jean-Paul Bailly, CEO of La Poste and presented to the French government some weeks ago. French unions decided to fight back together by organising a one-day strike and a demonstration, as well as sensitising postal users about the effects of a potential privatisation by asking them to sign a petition against privatisation. The idea of using the referendum process, a legal tool adopted



in July by the French Parliament, is being discussed. The French government has decided to set up a Commission to reflect on the future of La Poste. This is only the beginning of the debate.



Portugal: Union leaders on hunger strike demand settlement of contract

Since the beginning of the year, because the Portuguese Postal company, CTT Correios, did not have a reply from the Ministries of Labour and Communications of Portugal, 15 leaders of the SNTCT, including the General Secretary went on hunger strike. The hunger strike began at 10:00 am on the 7th of October in front of the CTT Administration/ Human Resources in one of the main squares of Lisbon.

One of the hunger strikers had to be taken to hospital but is now recovering at home.

UNI Post & Logistics sent a message of support to SNTCT and urged affiliates and supporters to send similar messages to the e-mail address: sntct@sntct.pt

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/unipostal.nsf/d3ae12c135a6a3aac1256b2f0050ecdc/fcf2a4c910676b68c12574dd00518710?OpenDocument>

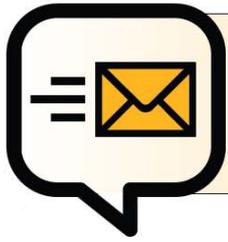
New Study out on Postal Universal Service Obligation - International Comparison

Accenture has just published a study ordered by the USPS on:

[Postal Universal Service Obligation International Comparison: International Postal Liberalization - Comparative Study of US and Key Countries.](http://www.uniglobalunion.org/unipostal.nsf/d3ae12c135a6a3aac1256b2f0050ecdc/fcf2a4c910676b68c12574dd00518710?OpenDocument)

The study is an overview of the USO, current changes to the USO and liberalization experiences of postal markets in certain countries and may be found at:

<http://www.usps.com/postallaw/pdf/PostalUSOInternationalComparisonfinalreport.pdf#search=%27liberalization%27>



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A Collective Agreement signed between the FNTPC and DHL/DRCongo

The FNTPC, UNI's affiliate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has just signed a Collective Agreement with DHL management in DRC after many years of negotiations. Indeed, DHL had already started working in the DRC in 1982, but it was only 15 years later, in 1997, that the FNTPC started to organize workers into a union committee, which was officially recognized on 30 July 2005. Negotiations for the Collective Agreement started in February 2008 and ended with the signature of the Agreement on 13 September 2008.

The signature of such an Agreement is important for two reasons. Firstly, it fits into the UNI-Africa vision "UNI-Africa faces its future", which had planned for organizing in multinationals, in particular DHL. Secondly, it also fits into the Strategic Plan adopted by the UNI Post & Logistics World Committee, which met in Nyon in July 2008

Slovakia: EC request to re-open competition in hybrid mail sector

In a decision made on 8 October (see below), the EC considered that the amendment of the Postal Services Act decided by the Slovak Government in February 2008 infringes Article 82 of the EC Treaty rules on Dominant Market Positions. The amendments of the Slovak postal law included reserving the delivery of hybrid mail to the incumbent postal operator, a sector in which several companies were already operating.

According to Neelie Kroes, EC Commissioner for Competition: "To re-monopolize a business activity that had already been successfully liberalized is a step in the wrong direction. Such attempts to benefit incumbent operators by re-monopolizing liberalized services harms consumers and businesses who depend on efficient postal services, and will not be tolerated by the Commission".

However, according to the Financial Times, in an article published recently, "...the Commission's decision...is taken under a rarely used part of the EC Treaty..".

UNI, which had sent protest letters to Commissioner Kroes, considers that this decision by the Commission is an attempt to further pressurize Member States to arrange for the full opening of the postal sector by 2011/13 under the 3rd Postal Directive.

UNI's protest letters and the EC decision may be found at:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/unipostal.nsf/d3ae12c135a6a3aac1256b2f0050ecd-c3ac25141ac1d60eac12574dd003b93ad?OpenDocument>

Norway: Fear that the government is failing to keep its promises will hit postal employees

UNI's affiliate in Norway, POSTKOM, reports that the government has put jobs at risk by not keeping its promises to pay for postal services. According to the terms of service and quality levels of postal services, the Post Office is required to perform a number of unprofitable services. Six months ago the government issued a plan about the future of the PO saying that the bill must be paid. When money does not enter it means that the Post Office must streamline the operations further.

"It is incomprehensible that the government, which has been concerned about a good state ownership, violates its promise and put postal employees' jobs at stake by failing to pay for them," said POSTKOM's President, Odd Christian Øverland, angrily.

"It seems to me that the government thinks it's okay to order services for hundreds of millions of NOK, and let postal employees pay the bill. POSTKOM cannot accept that the government breaks its promises and puts further pressure on postal employees. We already work under pressure from the strong demands for efficiency, frequent restructuring, several rounds of major personnel reductions and closure of post offices across the country. Our members will not pay the bill this time", said Øverland, who estimates that the Post Office has an outstanding 400 million NOK bill from the State in the form of unprofitable postal service that the Post Office is required to perform.

New Zealand workers rally for workers' rights

UNI Post & Logistics' New Zealand affiliate, the EPMU, together with other unions in New Zealand, organised rallies for workers' rights. During a critical time for the world's economy, the unions are calling for stronger workers' rights and higher wages. The rallies which ran in many of New Zealand's cities and towns attracted many thousands of workers. In Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, a New Zealand Post worker, Mahendra Singh, who is on the national executive committee of the EPMU, addressed the workers on the need for solidarity to gain rights and decent wages for workers.

Full information on the campaign can be found at: <http://www.workrights.org.nz/>

Switzerland: Employees of the postal sector demand a long-lasting pay rise

UNI's affiliate in Switzerland, Syndicat de la Communication, reported that in a meeting held in Bern on 9 September, it decided on the claims that the employees from the KEP&Mail branch (Courier, Express, Parcels & mail) would put forward in the wage negotiations to take place this autumn. They demand that companies such as, SwissPost, DPD(Suisse) SA, DHL Suisse, FedEx and UPS, grant all their employees a compensation for the rise in the cost of living as well as a general rise of real wages of around 2.5%.

The Syndicat de la Communication also demands that companies of the KEP&Mail branch open up social dialogue with unions and that the Federal Council assists in these discussions. It is only by doing so that social and wage dumping can be avoided in the KEP&Mail branch.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/unipostal.nsf/d3ae12c135a6a3aac1256b2f0050ecd-a182332ede27e02ec12574c00029cf94?OpenDocument>



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Switzerland: Distribution of morning papers: working conditions need to be looked into

UNI's Swiss affiliate, the Syndicat de la Communication reports that now that SwissPost has taken over the morning distribution of papers from the NZZ and the Tages Anzeiger, through the creation of Presto SA, a concentration in this sector is taking place. This is a step in the right direction to prevent competition from taking place to the detriment of working conditions, adds the Syndicat de la Communication, who expects that negotiations proceed rapidly in view of a Collective Agreement.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.uniglobalunion.org/unipostal.nsf/d3ae12c135a6a3aac1256b2f0050ecdc/d7184c34687ccc71c12574da002db8d0?OpenDocument>

Argentina: Celebration of Postman's Day

FOECyT, UNI's affiliate in Argentina, celebrated Postmen and Postwomen on 14 September.

Indeed it was on 14 September 1771, when a new figure, the postman, first appeared in the streets of Buenos Aires, which quickly became the iconic image of Correo Argentino: a dedicated public servant who provides a vital service to the whole society, irreplaceable, despite the undeniable advance of technology.

In this new celebration, the postal family of FOECYT wants to congratulate postmen and postwomen for their work and to honour one of the oldest institutions of the country.

More information can be found at:

<http://www.foecytagentina.org/leernoticia.php?id=255>

World Postal Day 9 October

World Postal Day, organised by the United Nations specialist agency, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) with whom UNI has a unique partnership, was being celebrated around the world on 9 October. Workers from UNI's affiliates took part in different actions to celebrate the day. UPU's Director General, Edouard Dayan, said in his World Postal Day message: "I call upon all member countries of the Universal Postal Union and universal postal service operators to make a firm commitment, with all other postal sector players, to modernize postal services so that they can continue to contribute fully to economic and social development."

More information can be found at: http://www.upu.int/world_post_day/en/index.shtml

In Tunisia, UNI's affiliate, UGTT has made an activity to support their vision for a better universal postal service for all inhabitants in Tunisia. UGTT Section fédérale postes et télécoms General Secretary, Leyla Hazerm said that the maintenance of a public universal postal service is essential for sustainable development.

UNI Post & Logistics European Committee Meeting, Luxemburg, 2-3 October

UNI's Post & Logistics European Committee met in Luxembourg from 2 to 3 October 2008. Amongst the topics discussed were that of regulation. Attention was drawn to the issue of the Slovak Republic where the trade union confederation is concerned with the developments of the EC interventions regarding the so-called abuse of monopoly of the operator. The privatisation of La Poste in France was another point of concern. Committee members were reminded of the Workshop on Liberalization in Europe which is to take place in Luxembourg on 26 November 2008. With regard to organizing, and work with multinationals, participants were updated on discussions with TNT and on the Workshop on Organising in DHL being jointly organised with the ITF, which would be taking place in Luxembourg from 18 to 19 November to which all affiliates are invited. The UNI-ITF joint strategy for organising in DHL would also be discussed in the Workshop.

Other topics of discussion included the future of the Postal Social Dialogue, relations with the UPU, the European Court of Justice Cases as well as the European Directive on Temporary Work.

USA: USPS releases its 5-year plan

The USPS has just released its new five-year Strategic Plan *Vision 2013*. The Plan may be found here: <http://www.usps.com/strategicplanning/vision2013.htm>

ITF's Global Delivery Bulletin is out

Please visit: <http://www.itfglobal.org/global-delivery/bulletin.cfm>



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Next meetings

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|-----------------|---|
| 27-28 Oct. 2008 | - UNI-Apro Post & Logistics Committee, Manila, Philippines |
| 6-7 Nov. 2008 | - UPU's Consultative Committee, Bern, Switzerland |
| 18-19 Nov. 2008 | - UNI-ITF Organising Workshop & DHL Campaign Strategy Meeting, Luxembourg |
| 26 Nov. 2008 | - UNI Workshop on Liberalisation in Europe, Luxembourg |