

Nyon, 1 June 2009



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Mr Charlie McCreevy
Commissioner for Internal Markets and
Services
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

Implementation of the Third Postal Directive

Dear Mr McCreevy,

We are extremely disappointed that we have to date not had a reply to our letter of 5 December 2008 (a copy of which is attached) outlining our concerns on how inclusive the implementation processes are and to how the requirement that the social aspects of the opening up of the postal market are being taken into consideration. In that letter we had made suggestions on how we could ensure that Clause 16 of the new directive could be dealt with.

In clause 16 of the new Directive its says;

This Directive is without prejudice to the competence of Member States to regulate employment conditions in the postal services sector, which should not, however, lead to unfair competition. Social considerations should be taken into due account when preparing the opening up of the postal market.

In our view this aspect has not yet been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

In the meantime, as we are so concerned about ensuring that the social aspects of the implementation of the directive are adequately dealt with, we have commissioned our own global study of liberalisation of the postal markets and the affects on workers and the community. We are aware that the Commission has also undertaken a study, the PIQUE report, that covers some of these aspects from a European perspective.

We have now completed our study, and I attach a copy for our information. The results of our study show that there are serious social consequences of liberalisation, not the least of which is to the wages, jobs and working conditions of postal workers. We are even more firmly of the view therefore that it is urgent that DG Internal Markets sets up a working group investigating how the social considerations of the implementation of the directive can be dealt with. This view is reinforced not only by our own study which contains valuable insight into the consequences of postal market liberalisation, but also by the Commissions own PIQUE report which also clearly points to negative social consequences as a result of postal market liberalisation.

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Dealing with these issues has become even more imperative with the Financial Crisis which is seriously affecting mail volumes and bringing the viability of the postal market liberalisation as proscribed in the 3rd Directive, into question. Our study and recent experiences in liberalised European markets such as Germany and the UK, make it clear that competition is being introduced in the postal market with shrinking mail volumes and operators clearly looking to compete by social dumping. This is a totally unacceptable scenario for UNI Post & Logistics Global Union. It is even more so especially considering that DG Internal Markets has not made any moves to date to set up a working group to look at these aspects.

We therefore urge you take recognize the value and results of our study and to give very serious and urgent consideration into constituting a social issues working group.

We look forward to your positive response on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Neil Anderson
Head of UNI Post & Logistics Global Union