

# POSTAL NEWS

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## 1. Azerbaijan to take part in international postal conference

Oct 14, 2010.

Baku, Fineko/abc.az. Azerbaijan will participate in the international postal conference.

According to head of postal sector of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies Novruz Mammadov, Azerbaijan will be represented during a meeting of heads of mail administrations of member countries of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The event will be held in Kazakhstan on November 27-28, where vital problems of postal services sector of ECO countries will be discussed.

ECO Secretariat was established in 1985 and consists of six specialized directorates, curating main directions of regional cooperation, in particular, transport and communications, trade and investments, energy industry, mineral resources and environment, agriculture and industry, public health services, education and culture, economic research and statistics and so on.

In 1992, Azerbaijan joined ECO along with Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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## 2. Postal service in Thailand

วันอังคาร ที่ 19 ต.ค. 2553

There are many postal services available in Thailand. Just bring your letter or parcel down to the nearest post office for both international and domestic delivery.

There are over 3,000 post offices and over 30,000 post boxes in the country. Opening times for most post offices are from 08:30am to 4:30pm.

Thailand Post offers a full range of services from all postal services to money transfers and payment of bills. The major international courier companies have offices in Thailand that offer pick up services at the sender's location. (Source: MET107FM)

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October 14, 2010

### **3. The Postal Service Can't Afford Union Jobs**

Although the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) has been able to shave billions in expenses, it hasn't been enough to stop the bleeding. The USPS, which is close to maxing out its \$15 billion line of credit with the U.S. Treasury, faces the prospect of running out of operating cash by year's end, says Tad DeHaven, a budget analyst at the Cato Institute.

A big drag on the USPS's bottom line is the pesky postal unions.

- \* Even though postal operations have become more automated, labor still accounts for 80 percent of the USPS's costs.

- \* The USPS has been able to eliminate thousands of positions through attrition, but it still possesses the second-largest civilian workforce in the country, behind only Wal-Mart.

- \* With 85 percent of that workforce protected by collective bargaining agreement, the unions have become a giant anchor on an already sinking ship.

- \* In 2009, the average postal employee received about \$79,000 in total compensation, compared to \$61,000 in wages and benefits received by the average private sector worker.

Collective bargaining agreements also make it difficult for the USPS to hire part-time workers, which could generate substantial savings, says DeHaven.

The USPS inspector general recently pointed out that the USPS's utilization of part-time workers is below UPS, FedEx, and its international counterparts.

- \* While only 13 percent of the USPS's workforce is part-time, the figures for UPS and FedEx are a respective 53 percent and 40 percent.

- \* Germany's Deutsche Post, which is privatized, employs a workforce that is 40 percent part-time.

Unfortunately, the game is rigged in favor of the postal unions, says DeHaven.

Source: Tad DeHaven, "The Postal Service Can't Afford Union Jobs," Daily Caller, October 12, 2010.

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#### **4. Postal privatisation will be 'deeply unpopular'**

Published Date: 14 October 2010

By Staff Reporter

GOVERNMENT proposals to privatise Royal Mail will prove "deeply unpopular" with people in Londonderry, according to local MP Mark Durkan.

The SDLP MP has joined a number of fellow MPs in lobbying for Royal Mail to be modernised, not privatised.

Mr Durkan said: "I strongly oppose proposals put forward by the government to privatise Royal Mail.

"Like many other MPs, I want to see a p

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ublicly-owned Post Office in good health, providing customers with an excellent service and its employees with rewarding employment.

"That is why I fully support the modernisation plans agreed by management and unions, which are fully funded and require no extra financial investment from private companies."

He pointed out that Royal Mail's profits rose by 26 per cent to £404 million in 2010.

"Any decision to remove this organisation from public ownership would be deeply unpopular, not least with people in Derry," he continued.

"I would also be concerned that the government's proposals would result in increased prices for customers.

"I am therefore calling on the government to listen and respond to these wide-ranging concerns and re-examine their proposals to ensure that Royal Mail is modernised, not privatised, and remains a wholly publicly-owned organisation," concluded the Foyle MP.

\* Last Updated: 14 October 2010 10:29 AM

\* Source: Londonderry Sentinel

\* Location: Waterside

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#### **5. Postal Services Bill 2010 lays out plans for Royal Mail pension**

2010-10-14

The government has proposed to create a new government pension scheme and to transfer to it rights which members of the Royal Mail Pension Plan (RMPP) have accrued up to a cut off date to be determined by secondary legislation made under the Postal Services Bill 2010 as part of the privatisation of the Royal Mail,

The plans were tabled in the bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on 13 October.

The Royal Mail Pension Plan (RMPP) has approximately 440,000 members and an actuarial deficit of £10.3 billion as of 31 March 2009.

According to the bill, members who are no longer accruing service will have their pension rights met by the new plan. Members who are continuing to accrue rights after the cut off date will have their pension rights met by the government scheme in respect of rights accrued before that date and the RMPP in respect of rights accrued after that date.

Part two of the bill gives power to the Secretary of State to remove historic pension liabilities from the Royal Mail and transfer them to government.

In particular, the Secretary of State is given power to: establish a new statutory scheme which may be used to provide benefits to certain members of the Royal Mail Pension Plan; transfer rights and remove liabilities from the RMPP; transfer assets from the RMPP to the government; and divide the RMPP into sections, and allocate assets and liabilities between those sections.

Vince Cable, business secretary, said “Royal Mail and the Post Office are cornerstones of our society. My policy is to put them on a stable footing for the future.

“Royal Mail is in a dangerous position – there is no hiding from the facts: mail volumes falling; a multi-billion pension deficit; less efficiency than its competitors and an urgent need for more capital at a time when there are huge constraints on the public purse.

“The company now has to go further and faster to innovate, modernise and adapt better to the digital age – that requires substantial investment. This investment needs to be delivered by the private sector, particularly in light of the huge public sector deficit.

“Our package is of crucial importance. For employees - a stable company to work for, shares in the future of the business and the secure pension they deserve.”

Read more articles about the Royal Mail Pension Plan

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