

POSTAL NEWS

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1. New Distance Selling EU Directive To Bring Unity

03 February 2011 - Franz Groter

A new EU directive has been proposed that aims to strengthen consumer rights following the growth in distance selling.

The proposal calls for a harmonisation of legal rights which add clarity for consumers buying goods abroad and more in line with a single currency. Consumer rights Directive 22-16 includes 1596 amendments with some existing legislation to merge.

According to the European Parliament, areas requiring unity include:

- * Information to be given prior to a purchase
- * Delivery rules
- * A unified cooling off period (ie right of return within a specified period)
- * Repairs & replacement
- * Guarantees and unfair contract terms for all kinds of sale, be it online or in a shop.

Andreas Schwab (EPP) said:

"We must have a strong set of common rules all over Europe. It is true that member states lose a little bit of flexibility but for a common market is necessary.

"If I shop online - and more and more people nowadays want to- I don't check where the business is based, I want to know which my rights are."

Union members ratify agreement to limit compulsory redundancies at TNT Post
The members of Abvakabo FNV, CNV Publieke ZaaK and BVPP have ratified the recently signed in-principle agreement between TNT Post and their trade unions' leaders. This ratification enables TNT Post to continue with its planned restructuring programme, which it will carry out in consultation with the employees' representatives.

Declining mail volumes has forced TNT Post to make comprehensive changes to its organisation in the coming years. Allowing for natural attrition and voluntary departures, 4,500 compulsory redundancies are expected to be necessary among

operational staff. Ratification of the agreement by the union members means that this number will now be substantially reduced. The agreement encompasses the following arrangements in this regard:

- A confirmed total of 1,700 jobs will be retained, including at TNT Post's new Auto Unit and Parcel Service.
- TNT Post will examine the possibilities to retain another 200 jobs at the Auto Unit as part of future organisational changes.
- Temporary work will be offered to 300 employees until the end of 2013.
- Greater use will be made of TNT Mobility, with the aim of avoiding unemployment for an additional 500 workers.

TNT Post and the unions will also study ways in which employees in jobs that will be shed can be assisted in finding work elsewhere through a secondment company to be set up by an external party.

TNT Post will continue to do its utmost to limit the number of compulsory redundancies by encouraging voluntary job mobility wherever possible. TNT expects to be able to clarify the impact on masterplans at the time of the publication of TNT NV's annual results on 21 February 2011.

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2. Blue Dart posts profit jump

Monday, February 7th, 2011

South Asia express company Blue Dart Express Ltd posted a post-tax profit of Rs 943.7m for 2010.

This saw a jump from the post-tax profit of Rs 607.1m achieved during 2009.

Furthermore, income from operations for the quarter ended December 31, 2010 was Rs 3,188.83m. The income from operations (inclusive of fuel surcharge) increased by 26.75% for the year ended December 31, compared to the corresponding year.

Anil Khanna, managing director, Blue Dart Express Limited said: "The 2010 results have been in sync with our outlined expectations for the year.

"Going forward, we are committed to remain the 'Express & Logistics Provider of Choice' for Indian industries. While continuing to be the 'Trade Facilitators' in the country, we shall continue our focus on addressing specific needs of the customers delivering customised solutions.

"Blue Dart stands for Quality, Consistency, Reliability, Passion and Commitment. I thank every Blue Darter, associates, our customers and stakeholders for their support and being our brand ambassadors.

"Blue Dart has robust plans for India and we are delighted to serve in "Blue Dart country" with a business and human conscience to remain the customer's first choice", he added.

During the year 2010, Blue Dart handled over 87m domestic shipments, and 740,000 international shipments across the India and 220 countries worldwide.

Source: Blue Dart

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3. Unions in Pakistan unite to fight postal privatisation

2011-02-07

Asia & Pacific, Pakistan

Five postal unions in Pakistan that have collective bargaining rights (CBA) have combined in an action committee to fight the proposals to privatise Pakistan post

The five postal unions in Pakistan that have collective bargaining rights (CBA) have combined in an action committee to fight the proposals to privatise Pakistan post. The unions say that Pakistan Post is a public service providing a postal service to "every nook and corner" of the country. It has a devoted and efficient staff who see privatisation as an attack on a service that is needed by the public to help Pakistan operate as an effective community.

When in 009 it was announced by the Government that they planned to privatise the department all the five CBA Unions gathered in the Capital Islamabad and decided to agitate against the plan. They formed an action committee called the Anti Privatisation Postal Action Committee, which has carried on the struggle against the privatisation. Despite facing and dealing with all the odds thrown up by the authorities the unity of the workers is making a huge effort to stop the privatisation plans.

The unions say that on one hand it is encouraging that actions against the privatisation are taking place all over the country, on the other hand the Government's plans are still in place. Recently the Anti Privatisation Postal Action Committee convened an Emergency Meeting in Lahore in which all members of the committee and analysed the achievements so far and discussed future actions. The committee is thankful for support from UNI and unions from other countries.

Further messages of support can be sent to the committee through the All Pakistan Postal DMO Employees and Workers Union (APPEDWU) with messages to: Asad Khan, General Secretary, email: asadkhansfc@yahoo.com

http://www.uniglobalunion.org/Apps/iportal.nsf/pages/sec_20081016_gbkmEn

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4. UPS and FedEx Pick Up Momentum as Economy Rebounds - Investor Place

In the wake of strong earnings and a recovery-fueled boost in shipments, there are more bulls chasing after United Parcel Service (NYSE: UPS) and FedEx (NYSE: FDX) these days than you'd find at the encierro in Pamplona. But despite the positive outlook, FedEx and UPS still will have to navigate the uncertainty of increasingly

expensive fuel and an antitrust lawsuit to ensure that share prices don't get gored in 2011.

It's no secret that both transport companies' earnings have risen dramatically since last July as the strengthening economy boosted shipments of goods. As the economy continues to dig out of the recession, investors are likely to see significant upside potential with both companies' shares in 2011 — even though UPS and FedEx stock already has risen by 26% and 12% respectively over the past year.

Analysts agree that UPS and FedEx likely will have a good year in 2011. UPS is forecasting record earnings of as much as \$4.35 a share, which if achieved would be 22% above last year's numbers. FedEx, meanwhile, also is looking at higher earnings in the range of \$4.80-5.25 for 2011.

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5. French e-commerce grows 24 percent in 2010

Wednesday 26 January 2011 | 15:11 CET

French e-commerce grew 24 percent in 2010 to a value of EUR 31 billion, according to a study by the distance sellers associations Fevad. The growth was supported by a good first half of the year (up 27%) and strong Christmas sales, when the French spent over EUR 6 billion online. The total number of transactions for the full year reached over 340 million, up by 60 million from 2009. The average value of each transaction was EUR 91, while each online consumer makes an average 12 transactions over the year, spending in total EUR 1,100. An estimated 81,900 sites were active selling online in the country, up 28 percent from 2009. The results are based on a Fevad survey of 40 leading websites and seven major online payment companies.

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Collected by Chairul Anwar, Bandung, Indonesia.

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