

POSTAL NEWS

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1. **Norway seems to be on the verge of breaking with the common European postal policy.**

April 13th, 2011, Issue 15 / 2011

This could be triggered by the governing Labour Party's 'no' vote to the opening of the postal market. Neither prime minister Stoltenberg nor foreign minister Støre were able to coax the party convention into accepting the EU postal directive over the weekend. Norway is now very likely to reject the EU postal directive as the government coalition partners, the Socialist Left Party and the Center Party, have already uttered their opposition to the market opening. The Socialist Left Party had already announced two years ago that the 2011 market opening scheduled in the EU directive would "lend it self well to trying out the veto right defined in the EU contract" (CEP-News 28/09). The adoption of the EU postal directive can not pass the parliament without the votes of the Labour Party.

Many MPs expect service quality to deteriorate if the postal market is liberalised. It is feared that around one tenth of Norway's population of just under 5m people could get mail on just one day a week.

Norway is not a member of the EU, but part of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen agreement. This means that Norway abides to EU economic laws and therefore gains access to the internal European market. If the country exercises its contractually agreed opt-out clause Brussels has the right to suspend parts of the EEA agreement.

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2. **CWU Welcomes Postal Services Bill Amendments**

13 April 2011 - Press Release

The Communication Workers Union, which represents thousands of postal workers at Royal Mail, today said it welcomed the amendments to the Postal Services Bill published by BIS.

The union has been campaigning to protect the universal service obligation (USO) and the future of post offices and it said the amendments to the Bill go some way to

reflecting those aims. The union has been in dialogue with BIS Ministers and has briefed MPs and Lords on these issues consistently over recent months. In acknowledging that the amendments go some way to support both the USO and the future of post offices, the union said it was clear that more needs to be done.

Billy Hayes, CWU general secretary, said:

“We warmly welcome these amendments from the Minister to the Postal Services Bill. We have been campaigning hard to safeguard the UK’s universal postal service and to secure both mails services and the post office network. We are pleased that the Government has taken on board some of our concerns and we will continue to campaign and have dialogue with government to strengthen the Bill in other areas including more necessary work on regulations. The amendments on the universal service and the commercial relationship between Royal Mail and the Post Office have been key campaign aims for the union and we are delighted the Government has listened. We are looking for a clearer commitment to an inter-business agreement between Royal Mail and the Post Office, but this is a good step towards that aim.”

Dave Ward, CWU deputy general secretary (postal) said:

“The union recognises these amendments as welcome and important developments. They have been achieved as a direct result of our campaign and ongoing dialogue with the government. However, we also acknowledge that on regulation there remains a lot of work to do in order to achieve a genuinely level playing field.”

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3. St. Albert postal workers' picket stops mail

Posted: Apr 13, 2011 6:08 PM MT

Residents of some rural areas near St. Albert didn't get their mail on Wednesday. About 15 postal carriers upset with Canada Post for cutting the number of parcels they deliver decided not to carry mail.

These carriers, who get paid for each parcel they deliver, demonstrated in front of the Canada Post distribution centre in St. Alberta.

Canada Post called it an illegal work stoppage.

Kathi Neal, spokeswoman for Canada Post, said she can't talk about the pay issue but said they are trying to work around the delivery problems.

"Although mail was delivered by contractors yesterday, the illegal work stoppage has prevented contractors from accessing our depot today," she said. "And that's resulted in mail not being delivered to a few rural routes in St. Albert."

Bev Ray, president of the Edmonton local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, said it's an information picket.

"[Workers have] been given no avenue to be able to talk to the employer about what's happened, and so there's nothing else left for them to do to try and get Canada Post to pay attention that they're not happy," said Ray.

Ray said there is a hearing with the national labour board on Thursday.

4. Digital Zumbox Platform Adopted By New Zealand Post

13 April 2011 -

Zumbox, the leader in digital postal mail services, announced on Monday a licensing agreement with New Zealand Post to deploy the Zumbox Platform for Digital Postal Mail. New Zealand Post has licensed the Zumbox Platform and received a national exclusive on the use of the platform as it develops market offerings to provide mailers and consumers a cost-effective and convenient option for secure digital delivery and storage of postal mail.

The Zumbox Platform is a locally deployable, white-label software offering that provides postal operators and commercial entities a complete system for digital delivery of mail based on street addresses. Digital postal mail is a facsimile of paper mail created from a diversion of the existing print stream. It is presented and archived digitally for consumers in a centralized, secure online location, creating significant cost savings for mailers along with the environmental benefits of reduced paper production and waste.

"As customer preferences change with technological advancements, New Zealand Post is committed to a future that meets our customers' mailing needs both physically and digitally," said Sohail Choudhry, GM Integrated Communications of New Zealand Post. "We have identified a clear interest -- both among consumers and businesses -- in a digital postal system here in New Zealand, and we are eager to test this service on the Zumbox Platform."

According to a 2010 study by The Research Agency, 77 percent of consumers said they would likely use a digital post network if it were available. Further, the average consumer using the service estimated they would opt out of receiving 59 percent of their current paper mail while 42 percent estimated they would go paperless on more than 80 percent of their mail. The survey also found that the strong consumer interest was matched by businesses, with 77 percent saying they would likely use the service to deliver mail digitally.

Zumbox CEO John Payne says many postal operators have explored digital initiatives in recent years because of the compelling case for providing customers with an alternative. "In recent months, we have seen many posts around the world accelerate rapidly from exploration towards commercial deployment, and we are thrilled to see New Zealand Post seeking to be a key player in digital postal mail delivery."

With a digital postal system based on street addresses, the Zumbox Platform enables multi-channel delivery for postal operators who can now offer mailers the ability to deliver both physically and digitally in parallel until consumers opt out of receiving the paper version. Consumers benefit from a simple, time-saving and environmentally responsible alternative with permanent online recordkeeping of their important mail and documents.

About Zumbox

Zumbox provides the world's first platform for digital postal mail. It connects large transactional, financial and government mailers to consumer households for the delivery and storage of digital postal mail via local postal agencies and the Internet. Digital postal mail is an exact facsimile of paper mail created from a redirection of the print stream originally intended for large mailing systems. For every street address in a country, the Zumbox Platform offers a corresponding digital mailbox, enabling mail and other content to be delivered and stored digitally. Zumbox represents a more cost-effective, convenient and environmentally responsible way to deliver postal mail. Zumbox is a closed system of known, verified mailers and recipients, which provides bank-level security, complying with PCI, HIPAA and BITS security standards. Zumbox Software is the licensing arm of Zumbox, Inc. For more information, visit <http://www.zumbox.com>.

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5. UPS to deploy three “green” trucks in Hong Kong

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011

UPS will take on three hybrid-electric vehicles in Hong Kong this year, as part of its global effort to move to more sustainable technologies.

The company wheeled out the first new hybrid-electric truck in the former British colony yesterday. Two more hybrids will be added to the Hong Kong fleet later this year.

UPS said hybrid electric vehicles have shown a 35% improvement in fuel economy since it started using them in 1998.

Its expanded use of the technology fits in with its global effort to use more sustainable and environmentally-friendly business practices, the company said.

UPS currently has more than 1,900 vehicles in its fleet using alternative technologies. Its work with manufacturers, government agencies and non-profit organisations aims to help advance the technologies and help develop cost-effective transport options that are better for the environment than conventional diesel.

Brian Cusson, President of UPS North Asia District, said his company was tracking fuel and energy performance indicators each day to promote efficiency and sustainability.

He said: “The new hybrid-electric vehicles in Hong Kong, in addition to our employee volunteer activities and community involvement, demonstrates the strategic importance of sustainability.”

UPS Hong Kong won a government environmental award last year for its work to “green” its logistics services.

Among the company’s achievements has been the introduction of the first carbon neutral shipping option for its customers, where shipments have their carbon footprints offset for a nominal fee.

William Ng, managing director of UPS in Hong Kong and Macau, said introducing hybrid-electric vehicles would help to further his company’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions and also local population.

He said: “Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated places in the world and air quality has always been a matter of concern for local residents.”

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6. DHL to run SME competition in UK

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011

DHL Express has announced it will give away 2.5m Nectar points to UK-based SMEs.

The move follows the operator entering a partnership with the b2b loyalty programme, as reported last week by Post&Parcel.

The partnership with Nectar Business intends to provide “better value for small and medium sized customers who send express shipments”, the company said.

It will enable businesses to collect two Nectar points per pound spent with DHL Express.

Now the operator is launching a campaign to find the UK’s “smartest small business” across London, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh and Cardiff, through a week-long local radio campaign.

Louise Isaacs, head of Nectar Business said: “DHL Express joining the programme not only increases the number of places where Nectar Business cardholders can collect points, but it’s clear that as a business, they are committed to providing additional value to their SME customers, with the regional radio competitions serving as just one example of how they are doing this.”

“By offering the chance to win 2.5m Nectar points, in addition to the on-going opportunity to earn rewards on everyday business expenditure, we’re excited to partner with DHL Express to enable SMEs to spend points on themselves or their business.”

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7. TNT introduces new shipping service to and from Laos

Wednesday, April 13th, 2011

TNT Express is making its internationally popular Economy Express service available to and from Laos.

Economy Express provides businesses with a day-definite, customs-cleared, door-to-door delivery service for shipments weighing up to 500 kg (non-palletised).

Delivery is guaranteed within 2-5 working days, depending on the origin and destination.

The Lao economy is projected to grow by 7.5% in 2011 (source: IMF, October 2010). This expansion is driven by infrastructure investments, mining, hydro power exports to Thailand and garment production.

Thailand, China and Vietnam are the country’s main trading partners. Typical shipments to Laos include machinery, mobile phones and telecom equipment like fibre optic cables, used to develop the country’s infrastructure.

TNT has been active in Laos since 2004.

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