



## **Press Release**

### **Postal users welcome the Commission proposal for a Third Postal Directive**

Brussels, 18 October 2006 – Today the Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI), which represents users of postal services in Europe, welcomed the European Commission's proposal for a third Directive on postal services, which fixes 2009 as the final date for full liberalisation of the mail sector.

The FFPI is delighted that the Commission has maintained the timeline foreseen in the current regulatory framework for the long-awaited full market opening and the completion of the internal market for postal services. The FFPI, as many other stakeholders in the sector, considers that liberalisation will be beneficial by resulting in greater choice between postal operators, a decrease in the costs for sending mail, improved quality of services and greater innovation. The FFPI has always strongly believed that, only by putting an end with a final date to the existence of the monopolies, the postal market, a very important one for the EU economy, can continue to be a competitive, dynamic and growth driven sector.

The FFPI also fully supports the provisions of the proposal that aim to reinforce the role and competences of the National Regulatory Authorities as it is convinced that regulatory oversight is a prerequisite for successful liberalisation.

The President of the FFPI, Philippe Bodson, commented: *"The Commission has done a great job to ensure continuity in the process of change foreseen for the European postal sector. Therefore we wholeheartedly welcome Commissioner McCreevy's adherence to the 2009 deadline. In spite of recent protectionist calls for pushing back the deadline once more, today's decision demonstrates that the Commission has taken into consideration the broad support reached by stakeholders on the need for a liberalised market and its benefits. This is great news for operators, users and consumers alike and we are confident that the European Parliament and the member States will acknowledge what is needed and what stakeholders want"*.

#### **Note to the editor:**

The Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) is a unique European initiative that brings together users and competitors of the public postal operators who strongly believe in the benefit of a liberalised and more competitive postal market. Through its membership, the FFPI currently represents more than 7,1 million companies. The FFPI key objectives are to secure full liberalisation of postal services that should be in 2009 at the latest and a fair playing field in the postal sector to prevent public postal monopolies to turn into private ones.

For more information, visit the FFPI website [www.freefairpost.com](http://www.freefairpost.com) or contact Valeria Fagone.  
Tel: 32-2-777.05.35. Fax: 32-2-777.05.36. E-mail: [info@freefairpost.com](mailto:info@freefairpost.com).