



Press Release

The FFPI welcomes the Commission's decision to investigate State aid to the Polish Post

Brussels, 30 June 2005 – The Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) welcomes the decision taken yesterday by the European Commission to launch a formal investigation on the compensation for the incumbent Polish Postal Operator, Poczta Polska, for providing the universal postal service. In particular, the Commission will verify whether the Polish Post has correctly applied the proper cost allocation principles in evaluating the cost of the universal service and if there has been any overcompensation that might benefit the Poczta Polska at the expense of consumers and of competitors.

"I fully share the view of Competition Commissioner Neelie Kroes who had commented that 'if the aid goes beyond what needed for the provision of the universal service, Polish citizens will lose out by having their tax money spent unnecessarily and by having a less competitive market for liberalised postal services'", said FFPI President, Philippe Bodson. "It is key for postal users and for citizens that state aid rules are applied fully and straightforwardly", he concluded.

The FFPI is encouraged by the Commission's resolve in tackling unlawful State aid in the postal sector, where distortions are still too frequent, and wishes to see the reform of EU State aid policy, focusing funding in areas and cases where it is really needed, executed soon.

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's key objectives are to secure a final date for full liberalisation of postal services at the latest in 2009 and a fair playing field in the postal sector to prevent public postal monopolies to turn into private ones.

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