



## Press Release

### **The FFPI welcomes the German Competition Authority's decision to stop discrimination in mail preparation services**

Brussels, 14 February 2005 – The Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) welcomed the decision taken today by the German Cartel Office ordering Deutsche Post to allow competition in the area of mail preparation services, as foreseen by EU rules.

The FFPI has in the past raised its concerns about existing restrictions in the German postal market and considers that the action taken by the Cartel Office is a significant step towards establishing a level-playing field for postal services in Germany. This decision addresses a distorting situation whereby Deutsche Post abused its monopoly by refusing to grant competitors rebates for collecting and sorting business mail, harming both smaller providers and ultimately postal users. *"Today's decision launches a positive message for alternative operators, particularly SMEs, and users of postal services. It is also in line with and supportive of the European Commission's efforts in ensuring that EU competition rules are respected and in promoting the attainment of an open and dynamic European postal market"* commented FFPI President, Philippe Bodson.

The FFPI believes that the Bundeskartellamt's decision of today, together with the infringement procedure launched by the Commission last year against a provision of the German Postal Law, will create the conditions for a better functioning postal market. The FFPI also trusts that German legislators, as well as decision-makers in all EU Member States, will acknowledge the urgent need for more and fair business opportunities, higher quality of service and more affordable rates for users, and that they will finally take the direction of liberalisation.

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.

For more information, visit the FFPI Web site [www.freefairpost.com](http://www.freefairpost.com) or contact Valeria Fagone.  
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