



PRESS RELEASE

The FFPI welcomes the European Commission decision to fine Deutsche Post AG for abuse of dominant position

Brussels, 25 July 2001 – The Free and Fair Post Initiative, FFPI, welcomes the decision taken today by the European Commission against Deutsche Post AG for abuse of dominant position. *“The FFPI congratulates the Commission for the speed and efficiency with which it conducted this proceedings and adopted a decision on this important case. We also welcome Mr. Monti’s statement that this decision represents a “clear signal that future abuses will result in severe penalties”*”, said P. Bodson, President of the FFPI.

The FFPI is convinced that the behaviours such as the one that has been condemned today are severely affecting not only competitors but also postal users. The fact that the Commission has imposed only a “symbolic” fine of 1000 Euro to the German postal monopoly for its infringements does not diminish their relevance and their gravity. However, this evident unclarity of the legal framework in the postal services area, as recognised by the Commission itself, raises the question of the urgent need to elaborate and soon apply adequate norms to regulate this crucial sector.

In the meantime, the FFPI calls on the Commission to quickly reduce its caseload of infringement cases, for instance cases such as the one concerning abuse of dominant position by the Belgian Post against Hays and the one regarding the grant of State Aids to Deutsche Post.

The FFPI believes that as long as there is no clear regulatory system in place in the EU, the postal market will be affected by confusion and uncontrolled distortions of the market. *“This current situation of vagueness is no longer sustainable”*, said P. Bodson. *“The FFPI fully backs the European Commission’s efforts in ensuring that rules governing competition are truly respected and in promoting the achievement of an open and dynamic Internal Market in the postal sector”*.

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 a final date for full liberalisation of postal services that should be in 2007 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 Web site www.freefairpost.com or contact Axel Rindborg

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