



Press Release

THE FFPI welcomes the European Commission decision to pursue the infringement proceedings against Belgium

Brussels, 30 July 2001 – The Free and Fair Post Initiative, FFPI, welcomes the decision taken today by the European Commission to deliver a “reasoned opinion” to the Belgian Authorities to request a change in the way Belgium has implemented Directive 97/67/EC on postal services.

“The FFPI supports the Commission for tackling all the Member States’ failure to correctly implement the 1997 Postal Directive. Today’s decision against Belgium is a step in the right direction but the Commission should keep watching closely breaches of EU law by other Member States and policing the market in a scrupulous and rigorous way”, said Philippe Bodson, President of the FFPI.

The FFPI is convinced of the need for all Member States to fully and truly respect the existing EU rules in the postal sector for the achievement of a market where users can benefit from a high level service marked by great efficiency and affordable prices. The FFPI strongly supports the European Commission’s commitment to ensure undistorted competition by taking legal action, sanctions and remedies to deter further violation of EC postal and competition rules. A good signal in this sense came from the recent decisions of the Commission to fine Deutsche Post for abuses of dominant position.

“If we are going to have a European postal sector - a cornerstone of the European economy – that works well, it will largely depend on the ability of the Commission to deal with the distortions on the market. It is necessary that the Commission dedicates financial and personal means to this important task but, more importantly, that it keeps the courage and strength to oppose national limited interests and put consumers first”, concluded President Bodson.

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.

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