

Postwatch and Free and Fair Post Initiative to work closely together to maximise competition in the postal sector

20 November 2003 - Postwatch, the UK postal watchdog, and the Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) today announced that they would be working closely together. The two organisations representing postal users share the common goal of encouraging the development of effective competition in the European postal services sector.

Peter Carr, Chairman of Postwatch, in support of the announcement said, *“We believe that consumers want a choice of service providers, reliable services and competitive pricing. They want companies that innovate and respond to their changing needs. Both the FFPI and Postwatch are convinced that competition can bring real benefits to customers. We are delighted to take the opportunity to co-operate with the FFPI in order to promote the interests of UK postal consumers across the EU.”*

FFPI President, Philippe Bodson added, *“The FFPI is glad to have the opportunity to join forces with Postwatch in order to voice postal users’ concerns and promote competition in the sector. In addition to setting up truly independent regulators, Member States should look at the UK as a model and create organisations, such as Postwatch, that are committed to promoting customers’ best interests. We have identified a number of problems at both EU and national level and we will work together to make sure they are addressed promptly by the competent authorities”.*

The most recent EU Postal Directive, adopted last year, sets a roadmap for further opening of the European postal sector, but the lack of an end date for full EU liberalisation provides no market certainty.

Both Postwatch and the FFPI consider it fundamental that European postal users are involved in pressing forward postal reform at both the EU and national levels.

Notes to Editors

1. The Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI) is a European initiative that promotes the liberalisation of postal services and fair competition in the postal sector. The FFPI closely monitors legislative as well as market developments at both EU and national level. For more information about the FFPI visit www.freefairpost.com
2. Postwatch is an independent public body set up by the United Kingdom Parliament to look after the interests of users of postal services in the United Kingdom. For more information about Postwatch visit www.postwatch.co.uk

More information

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