



Press Release

The FFPI calls on the British and German postal regulators not to give in to pressure from post offices and to maintain their efforts to improve the functioning of postal markets

Brussels, 9 March – British and German postal watchdogs are facing intense pressure as a result of their efforts to improve the functioning of the postal market in their countries. In separate developments this week, both postal operators have taken a firm position in favour of better postal services for customers.

“Members of the Free and Fair Post Initiative are outraged by the pressure that is being applied on the UK and German postal regulators as a result of their firm stance in favour of a more open and efficient postal market in their country”, said Philippe Bodson, President of the FFPI.

In the UK, the Post Office has threatened to withdraw from postal licence negotiations, while in Germany the Economics Ministry’s plan to extend the letter monopoly until 2007 would further increase Deutsche Post AG’s super dominance of the market, render competitors’ investments worthless and deprive consumers of alternatives.

“These tactics are clear examples of monopolistic operator’s attitudes vis-à-vis their customers”, stated Bodson. *“Public postal operators’ only concern seems to be how much money they will make on their own reserved territory in order to be able to invest in other markets. They are not listening to postal users who want more competition on the market and better services at a cheaper price”.*

The FFPI believes that the lack of progress at European level on the liberalisation of postal services will continue to allow public postal monopolies to abuse their dominant positions. This will inevitably create more and more frictions between them and those, such as the postal watchdogs, who have wider interests at the heart of their reasoning.

“This is why the member States need to agree on a final date for the full liberalisation of postal services at a European level. This will create the impetus that is needed to force public postal operators to adapt to a fast changing environment where customers’ interests should be duly taken into account”, concluded 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’s key objectives are to secure a final date for the 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 from turning into private ones.

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