



## Press Release

### **The FFPI welcomes the European Commission decision to fine the Belgian Post for abuse of dominant position**

Brussels, 5 December 2001 – The Free and Fair Post Initiative, FFPI, welcomes the decision taken today by the European Commission to impose a fine of 2,5 million euro to the Belgian postal operator La Poste for abusing its dominant position.

*“The FFPI congratulates the Commission for the swift adoption of a decision on this important case”,* said P. Bodson, President of the FFPI. *“I am glad to see that the Commission is committed to fighting distortions of competition in the European postal sector, and I am confident that decisions will be taken soon on other pending cases”,* added Bodson.

The FFPI believes that it is of crucial importance that efforts in this direction are intensified, in order to give to the Member States and the postal operators a clear signal that the EU will not tolerate any unfair market behaviours that endanger competition. This is vital to users and consumers of postal services who are the one who suffer from abuses from postal monopolies.

Today’s Commission decision confirms the fact that the European postal market is still characterised by serious breaches of the EU competition rules. The FFPI is convinced that, in order to achieve a well functioning postal market in Europe, where competition rules are truly observed, it is necessary to urgently set up a clear regulatory system to govern the EU sector of postal services.

*“Today’s decision is an important step towards establishing clear rules for competition in the postal sector. The Commission’s role in that regard will be increasingly important in the coming years due to the lack of true liberalisation in that sector”,* 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 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](http://www.freefairpost.com) or contact Axel Rindborg. Tel: 32-2-777.05.35. Fax: 32-2-777.05.36. E-mail : [info@freefairpost.com](mailto:info@freefairpost.com).