



President Romano Prodi  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 26 September 2001

**OPEN LETTER**

Dear President Prodi,

I am writing this letter in relation to the European Council's commitment to speed up market openings in the postal sector, decided in Lisbon in March 2000. The creation of an Internal Market for postal services is now at the heart of the Lisbon challenge.

The Free and Fair Post Initiative – the FFPI – is a European initiative that brings together users and competitors of the public postal operators. Through its membership, the FFPI currently represents more than 7,1 million companies. Our key objectives are to secure a final date for full liberalisation of postal services and a level playing field in the postal sector.

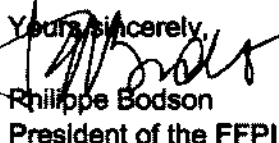
The Commission plays a key role in the Lisbon process and its continued efforts are necessary to implement the desired structural reforms. However, the FFPI would like to raise serious concerns in a number of key areas. We believe that the problems before us are severe and that they seriously risk undermining the EU's ability to complete a true Internal Market for postal services.

The European Council's meeting in Barcelona next year will be a crucial test for the EU's ability to implement the Lisbon agenda. We believe that unless the EU takes further action now with regard to the postal sector, the EU's overall aims will not be met.

The FFPI has put together a short document that outlines the measures that we believe are necessary in order to meet the Lisbon objectives. Our proposals concern both increased market openings and reinforced action by the Commission to ensure that the competition rules are applied as intended by the Treaties. In addition, we have put together a list of pending Internal Market and Competition cases in the postal sector. The list is in our view proof of the current serious market distortions in the postal sector.

I would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with you and discuss these matters at your convenience. I propose to have my office contact your office with a view to finding a mutually convenient time for a meeting.

A similar letter has been sent to Commissioners Monti and Bolkestein.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Philippe Bodson  
President of the FFPI

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The Free & Fair Post Initiative