

## BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**BIPT**

*PRESS RELEASE*

### The European Regulators Group for Postal Services chaired by the Belgian postal regulator BIPT in 2018

**Brussels, 19 January 2018 – Since the liberalisation of the postal sector 2018 will again be an important year in European postal regulation. The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP), which in 2018 will operate under the chairmanship of the Belgian regulator BIPT, is set to perform major work in order to contribute to a more harmonised implementation and development of the European postal regulatory framework.**

The ERGP comprises 28 EU national regulatory authorities for postal services. It is tasked, among other things, with counselling the European Commission on the proper operation of the internal postal market. In 2018 the ERGP will be chaired by Jack Hamande, member of the Council of the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications (BIPT).

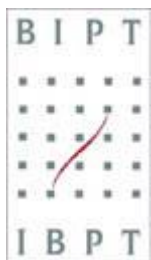
The ERGP included a number of important priorities to be accomplished in its 2018 operational plan. For instance the ERGP shall assist the European Commission with a view to the revision and reform of the Postal Directive: the ERGP shall list the main difficulties identified in practice by the national postal regulators and determine the characteristics of a goal-oriented regulation guiding the current evolution in the postal sector. The European Commission also designated the ERGP to back the harmonised implementation by the regulators of the future Regulation on cross-border parcel services. That Regulation should give consumers a better and clearer insight in the cross-border parcel tariffs and as such allow them to compare the cross-border parcel tariffs more easily.

In addition, the ERGP faces many other challenges regarding the implementation of the strategic objectives of its 2017–2019 Strategic Plan. For instance the ERGP wants to perform major work in 2018 in order to help the national postal regulators to specifically tackle complex regulatory challenges, e.g. in the field of the calculation of the net cost of the universal service, access regulation and stimulation of competition and quality assurance. The ERGP wants for instance to verify how to offer users who increasingly send and receive parcels optimum compensation or protection in case of shipment problems.

Jack Hamande, ERGP chairman in 2018: *“In 2018, the ERGP has a series of strong engagements that the national postal regulators want to carry out together. I am looking forward with a lot of enthusiasm to taking efficient and effective steps to achieve that goal together with my colleagues of the other national postal regulators.”*

Michel Van Bellinghen, Chairman of the BIPT Council: *“I am pleased that as the Belgian postal regulator BIPT has been granted the role of ERGP chair at an important time for the postal sector. By fulfilling that role BIPT will contribute to the further development of postal regulation.”*

For more detailed information:



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