



Press release

ERGP Opinion on the future regulation of postal services

Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal, 28 June 2019

The ERGP (European Regulators Group for Postal Services) has published today its opinion on the review of the regulatory framework for postal services

This Opinion builds upon the *ERGP Report on Developments in the postal sector and implications for regulation* published last March on [ERGP's website](#). The report identified core trends and developments in the postal sector as well as difficulties that national regulatory authorities encounter in applying the provisions of the Postal Services Directive.

Based on these findings, which indicated the need to revise the postal framework, the Opinion now explores the dynamics of the postal sector, identifying challenges for the future and providing recommendations to the European Commission on the review of the existing regulatory framework.

In its Opinion, the ERGP advocates a forward-looking perspective for the new regulatory framework for the postal sector, in view of the developments in technology and fundamental changes in user demand in recent years and their anticipated continuation in the years to come. The Group believes that a new framework should focus on the objectives of competition, considering that regulatory intervention in markets should take place only in case of actual or potential market failure. Consequently, a proper functioning of markets and competition should be the main objectives as well as the universal service provision of a minimum set of postal services with a certain level of quality and price needs to be available.

The ERGP observes a shift in the market from a focus on the sender to the recipient. In the Group's opinion, this calls for a strengthened approach to safeguarding consumer interest in its broader sense.

The ERGP furthermore emphasises the importance of the regulatory framework providing the Member States and Regulatory Authorities with sufficient flexibility to address specific national circumstances.



Finally, the ERGP points out that NRA tasks and the role and function of ERGP as an independent advisory body could be formally recognised by the new regulatory framework for postal services.

Both the Opinion and the Report will serve as input for the European Commission in the evaluation of the Postal Services Directive. The opinion is part of a wider inclusive process in which fact-based evidence, expertise and stakeholder views are gathered; the ERGP will continue to contribute to this process.

The full Opinion is available on [the ERGP webpage](#) under the 2019 documents.

The ERGP is an expert group composed of national regulatory authorities for postal services of EU and EEA states, established by a European Commission decision in order to advise and assist the Commission in consolidating the internal market for postal services or any other matter related to postal services within its competence.

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Press release

European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) 16th Plenary meeting

Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Portugal, 28 June 2019

The European Regulators Group for Postal Services (ERGP) held its first Plenary meeting for 2019 in São Miguel – Azores, under the chairmanship of Mr João Cadete de Matos, chairman of ANACOM, supported by the vice-chairs, Mr. Jack Hamande (BIPT/IBPT) and Mr Spyros Pantelis (EETT).

The Plenary session was preceded on the 27 June by a joint ERGP-PUASP (Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal) workshop about the regulatory challenges in Europe and in Americas and by an internal ERGP workshop on the *Opinion on the review of the regulatory framework*.

On 28 June, the Plenary adopted the *ERGP Opinion on the review of the regulatory framework for postal services*, which advocates in developing a future regulatory framework for the postal sector from a wider perspective and formulates a number of recommendations to the European Commission.

The Plenary also agreed on the draft ERGP Medium-Term Strategy 2020-22 (MTS) and the ERGP Work Programme for the year 2020. Both documents will be made available for public consultation before final approval.

The ERGP Plenary discussed the programme of the second ERGP Stakeholder Forum that will take place on 18 September 2019 in Brussels. High level stakeholders from the postal, digital and e-commerce sectors will be invited to exchange views on how to regulate for the future, on how e-commerce is re-shaping the postal sector and on developments in international mail. These three topics are most relevant for the evaluation of the Postal Services Directive that will take place in 2020 and the change



of business models of postal operators.

The ERGP Plenary also discussed the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 of Regulation (EU) 2018/644 on cross-border parcel delivery services.

The Plenary took note that the work of all sub-groups in 2019 is advancing as foreseen and approved the Report on the development of postal networks and access practices regarding infrastructure related to the parcel market.

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