



Press Release

Postal users express disappointment for further delay of postal liberalisation by the EP Transport Committee.

Brussels, 19 June 2007 – Today the Free and Fair Post Initiative (FFPI), which represents users of postal services in Europe, welcomed the adoption of MEP Markus Ferber's report on the third postal Directive by the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee but expressed its disappointment for the further delay of the final date for full market opening.

The FFPI considers the adoption of the report as a key step in the decision-making process regarding liberalisation of the postal sector. Regretting the postponement of the end date for full market opening to 2011, postal users believe that yesterday's agreement on the abolition of the postal monopoly in the Transport Committee is a development that demonstrates that there is widespread support for the completion of the long-awaited Internal Market for Postal Services in the EU.

Postal users believe that scrapping the postal monopoly, in addition to providing legal certainty for employees, users, operators, investors, will result in greater choice and quality, innovation and fair prices for users and consumers. Only by putting an end with an unconditional final date to the existence of the reserved area the postal market can be a competitive and dynamic economic sector.

The President of the FFPI, Philippe Bodson, commented: *"The postponement of the date foreseen by the European Commission comes as a bitter pill for postal users, who are firmly convinced that 2009 is the right time for full market opening across Europe. However, we very much appreciate the efforts made by the Rapporteur, Markus Ferber, in seeking the support of his colleagues in the European Parliament for resisting the protectionist calls of some parties and ensuring that this lengthy and cumbersome process finally comes to a conclusion. I urge all members of the European Parliament who will be called to vote in plenary next month, as well as the member States, to acknowledge what is needed for the postal market going forward and what stakeholders want"*.

Note to the editor:

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. The FFPI key objectives are to secure full liberalisation of postal services that should be in 2009 at the latest and a fair playing field in the postal sector to prevent public postal monopolies to turn into private ones.

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