

PostEurop UAC Task force on UPU opening: views on an alternative proposition on opening up UPU

A 2-step approach could be supported by PostEurop as it is a way to look for a compromise between countries and regions that have diverging views on the aim, shape, and speed of opening up.

Kind of proposition: Resolution, Amendments to the Constitution, General Regulations? Proposal of general matter (as it fixes policy), changes to UPU Acts foreseen in the next cycle.

The Resolution should set the general principles, and the roadmap and the first steps to be implemented immediately or implementation scheme.

For the next cycle: Should the CC be transformed, amendments should be worked out at least to the General Regulations (internal rules of procedure do not need to be approved by the Congress).

Tentative draft Resolution « **Policy on opening up UPU to wider postal sector stakeholders** »

Congress

Considering

the core missions of the UPU as defined by art 1 of the Constitution, to provide a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of postal items, to secure the organization and improvement of the postal services, to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration, to take part in postal technical assistance sought by its member countries;

Considering

the obligation upon the contracting parties to the UPU Acts to provide for the reciprocal exchange of postal items, including freedom of transit, and to treat postal items in transit from other countries like their own postal items, without discrimination;

Considering

that postal networks have important territorial and social dimensions which make universal access to essential local services possible;

Being aware and considering

the significant efforts and investments dedicated by countries and their Designated Operators to build a contribution towards UPU development cooperation policy, as well as their contribution to improve quality of service through Quality of Service Fund projects in order to promote a more sustainable postal world

Considering

the resolution C10/2016 "Policy on the access of wider postal sector players to UPU products and services" approved at the Istanbul Congress and the policy on the proposes to develop this access policy, in a gradual and thorough manner;

Recalling

that the UPU Convention requests Member countries to designate the entity or entities responsible for fulfilling the obligations arising from signing the Convention, and that these obligations do not apply to other postal stakeholders;

Considering

the need to avoid any market distortions in the postal sector;

Decides

to adopt the general policy on opening up UPU to wider postal sector stakeholders attached in annex 1.

Annex 1

I – Overarching policy and General Guidelines

Widening the access to product and services was already launched in 2016 by Resolution C10/2016 « Policy on the access of wider postal players to UPU products and services ». This resolution provides for the basic principles and modalities established: gradual opening up of access under a policy of fairness and equality consistent with general principles. These general principles are used as a basis for defining the following General Guidelines:

- Maintaining the integrity and independence of the UPU
- No unfair advantage to any group or individual player
- Clear delineation of the responsibilities and roles of all entities involved
- Transparent management, control and integration of the postal supply chain
- Reciprocity of interconnection with other stakeholders networks, as applicable
- Wider postal sector payment for access to UPU products and services
- Demonstrated need for wider postal sector access to specific UPU products and services
- Proper security mechanisms in place to ensure data protection and privacy
- Gradual implementation and respecting financial sustainability of the provision of postal service obligation derived from UPU Acts
- Guarantees to customers and citizens
- Principles of necessity, proportionality, non-discrimination and avoidance of market distortion must be taken into account for wider postal sector participation
- Non-discriminatory country-specific, market-based, cost-covering payment for access
- Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

II - Roadmap - recommendations in accordance with these principles

In a Phase 1, reviewing carefully products and services that could be opened. For each category of UPU solutions, to carry out impact analysis before taking decision to assess whether the opening of a

UPU solution meets the General Guidelines established in part I of this Annex and answering the following question: What are the risks and benefits of such opening?

In a Phase 2, testing the opening of the assessed products and services, to identify proper scope and conditions, and possible undesired effects on other services or partners.

In a Phase 3, successfully tested UPU solutions would be opened to the wider postal sector in the agreed conditions.

-Explore partnerships opportunities that could be essential for the improvement and development of postal services for all. The conditions must be defined.

-Creating a joint working group comprising representatives of member countries and stakeholders. This working group would make it possible to ascertain and define more precisely the expectations of stakeholders.

III – Immediate steps (=quickly implemented after Congress approval)

-Reaffirming fundamental rules

- UPU permanent bodies (CA, POC) as approved in Addis Ababa: composition, election rules, attributions
- Legal/binding decisions (right to vote) made by full Members
- Governments, Regulators, Designated Operators represent full Members.

-Transforming the Consultative Committee to strengthen its role and visibility with a three-level approach

1/the Consultative Committee is granted a true consultative role. That means that rules for interactions between CC, POC and CA, Congress, need to be worked out.

2/the CC becomes a really « external stakeholders » representative body

3/the CC reforms its internal organization, namely structure, financial contribution to UPU, among others

-Launching a few pilots to further opening of products and services. Identify scope and conditions, and test:

Access to some meetings and conferences

Access to contact database

Access to Consulting and building capacity under defined conditions

Access to data storage and protection

Access to focused analysis, under conditions and tariffs