

Prof. Sandra MAXIMIANO
ERGP Incoming Chair 2026
European Commission
DG GROW
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1040 Etterbeek
Belgium

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Dear Professor Maximiano,

PostEurop and its Members welcome the [Call for input regarding the ERGP Work Programme 2026](#). This is an opportunity to contribute to the ERGP's work and highlight key issues for the postal sector.

The industry continues to navigate significant structural transformations, including declining mail volumes and increasing competitive pressure in the parcel sector. At the same time, PostEurop members operate in an increasingly complex regulatory environment.

As usual, PostEurop would like to take this opportunity to highlight the following priorities for consideration when developing the ERGP Work Programme for 2026:

Regulatory framework: Focus on ensuring the sustainability of the Universal Postal Service

- The long-term sustainability of the Universal Service Obligation should be the priority of postal services regulation. The ERGP's work should contribute to ensuring that postal operators have the necessary flexibility to adapt to evolving market realities in Member States. Greater flexibility for Member States is essential to adjust USO requirements, including delivery frequency and network access points, to align with changing consumer needs, while maintaining the USO as a cornerstone for social and economic cohesion.
- The financing of the USO should be reinforced through improved compensation and streamlined procedures for state aid notifications, reducing complexity and administrative burden.

Prioritizing regulatory efficiency

- Given the imperative to enhance the EU's industrial competitiveness and the current geopolitical climate's demand for stricter resource prioritization and reduced bureaucracy, the ERGP agenda should prioritize rolling back regulations and reporting obligations in the postal sector. This aligns with the European Council's conclusions of 20 March 2025 on competitiveness, which emphasize the urgent need to simplify and reduce administrative burdens to boost the EU's competitiveness¹. The Council mentioned the need for "*...efforts at all levels – EU, national and regional – to ensure a clear, simple, smart and innovation-friendly regulatory framework and to drastically reduce, as a matter of urgency, administrative, regulatory and reporting burdens for businesses and public administrations...*". PostEurop suggests that the ERGP takes on board this topic and thus includes it as deliverable in the Work Programme for 2026.

¹ [European Council conclusions on competitiveness, European defence and security and migration \(20 March 2025\)](#)

- A key priority should be to ensure that regulatory compliance does not create unnecessary barriers to efficient postal operations. PostEurop calls on the ERGP to consider the cumulative impact of sector-specific and horizontal regulations on postal operators. Regulatory interventions should be carefully considered so as not to weaken the financial stability of designated operators and to allow innovation and competitiveness.
- In the parcel sector, existing horizontal competition rules and digital market regulations should remain the primary tools to address any potential imbalances that could emerge, rather than introducing additional sector specific regulations.
- Consumer rights and protection measures should be addressed within existing cross-sectoral consumer protection frameworks to avoid unnecessary duplication and complexity.

Resilience of postal infrastructure, technological developments, AI and Big Data

- PostEurop acknowledges that the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data by postal services presents opportunities to improve operational efficiency and customers' experience. When exploring these topics, the ERGP should avoid suggesting new regulation be added to existing regulatory frameworks that are in place. Overall, the regulatory environment should facilitate innovation and not hinder the adoption of technological advancements.
- Furthermore, the resilience of postal infrastructures is vital in the face of economic, geopolitical and technological disruptions. PostEurop believes it would be beneficial for the ERGP to benchmark how postal operators are supporting supply chain stability and service continuity in times of crisis, recognizing the value that postal services can bring in such situations.

In summary, PostEurop reiterates its commitment to a sustainable and competitive postal sector in Europe and suggests that the ERGP adopts a pragmatic approach when assessing the developments and challenges of the sector.

PostEurop remains committed to strengthening its engagement with the ERGP and is at its disposal to provide contributions that support its work, which is of utmost importance for PostEurop's members.

We look forward to continuing our constructive cooperation.

Kind regards,



Ms Elena FERNÁNDEZ-RODRÍGUEZ
Chairwoman



Mr Botond SZEKENYI
Secretary General

In copy to:

- Ms Agnieszka SKONIECZNA, DG GROW, Head of Investment Conditions and Public Services Unit
- Ms Christelle DEFAYE-GENESTE, La Poste, Chair of PostEurop European Union Affairs Committee