The Romanian postal services market has fluctuated in the past years in all its components: from the number of authorized suppliers to the total of postal items.

In 2012, over 350 authorized postal operators were registered at ANCOM (the national regulator of the postal services market), and in the beginning of this year the number reached over 400 but only about 50% of them really function.

The dynamics number of workers was, however, the opposite. In 2012, the postal services market was about 47,000, and by the end of 2016 only 36,000. The Romanian Post had over 32,000 workers in 2012 and now has about 25,000, number that says everything, I think.

Total postal traffic in Romania dropped by 15% in 2016 compared to 2015, reaching the traffic in 2012 (approximately 550 million postal items).

Considering the decrease of workers number in the Romanian Post in the last years, their loading rate has increased from 11,000 items/year in 2012 to almost 13,000 items/year in 2016.

All this happens in parallel with the decrease in the monthly incomes of the Romanian Postal workers, about 50% being around the minimum wage (325 euros).

Working conditions, especially in rural areas, are extremely difficult. Post offices receive their clients in old buildings and without any working conditions.

What led to the current situation?

- Decisions taken by the management of the company, taken in 2008, to engage the Romanian Post to pay over EUR 100 million under multi-annual contracts concluded for the period 2008 - 2012;
- The frequent changes and incapacity of the 6 management teams who led the Romanian Post between 2009 and 2017 to find business lines to compensate the decreased postal traffic and the loss of the reserved service segment in 2013 that financially balances the obligation to provide universal postal service;
- two fines of approximately EUR 35 million, applied by the Competition Council, for carrying hybrid mail, activities developed in all European countries, but not properly regulated in Romania, by ANCOM;
- overpayment of the company, intended exclusively for the payment of current activity;
- the total lack of investments:

  the IT infrastructure (hardware and software) has over 10 years of exploitation, being physically worn out;
an insufficient car park that does not allow the development of fast courier services, the competition having parks of over 3,000 cars while the Romanian Post has less than 1000.
no automated sorting center.

All this makes the Romanian Post a easy prey for the competition, and the postal workers, our trade union members, pay the price of managerial incompetence, lack of investment, adverse legislation, political and economic interests.