



# THE REVISION OF THE POSTAL SERVICES DIRECTIVE



In revising the European postal regulatory framework, UNI Europa Post & Logistics' trade unions call for the enactment of a fully-fledged citizen right to consume postal products based on an informed choice between operators. The choice becomes informed if all market players abide by similar legal and regulatory standards, which is currently not the case. The aim is to uphold the mission of services of general economic interest to benefit the citizens and the consumers. To achieve this, market operators must compete within a regulatory level-playing field that abides by social and environmental standards and does not engage in a race-to-the-bottom in terms of wages, working conditions and profit-seeking.



## **UNI EUROPA**

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## **POST & LOGISTICS**

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## **PRIORITIES**

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## **INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF POST**

We call on the legislators to provide incentives to strengthen the postal networks and to find innovative products. We call for the maintenance and enhancement of the scope and quality of universal postal networks. The new regulatory framework must allow operational functionality. We call on the legislators to enable the reorganisation and modernisation of the postal networks in a democratic manner taking into consideration the regions affected. In many parts of Europe, notably rural areas, postal services constitute the only means of communication and social inclusion. We therefore call on the legislators to uphold the crucial role postal services have in promoting social and territorial cohesion.

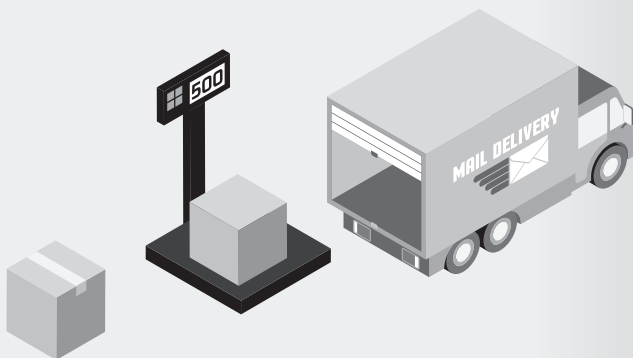
## **BUILD ON THE EXISTING USO TO REFLECT PARCEL GROWTH**

Without challenging the importance of letters, witnessing the continued growth of e-Commerce, parcels are of crucial importance for national economies and are a way to support SMEs' growth in the regions. We call on the legislators to enact a full citizen right to regular and affordable parcel delivery at uniform prices in a national territory, to send and receive parcels. This implies strong market regulation that guarantees good working conditions, decent wages, and a high quality of service. Quality of service indicators need to be regulated at national level reflecting the expansive definition of the USO.



## INCLUDE SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN MINIMUM STANDARDS

All companies providing services under the Universal Service Obligation (USO) must report in a standardised manner to the NRAs and the NRAs should uphold and safeguard social and environmental standards. The NRAs need more social and environmental responsibility and more accountability in enforcing corrective mechanisms in case of non-respect of established standards and national legislation. The new regulatory framework must impede instances of unfair competition and social dumping by upholding fair practices in terms of employment conditions, environmental performance and quality of service.



## GUARANTEE THE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING OF THE USO

The new regulatory framework for postal services must guarantee the sustainable financing of the USO in a shrinking market without profit orientation. **We call on the legislators to review the current system of postal compensatory funds as it does not function properly if the USO is defined in a narrow manner (only letters).** All market players involved in the USO must contribute to its financing whilst guaranteeing the high quality of service at uniform affordable prices. Companies must not be able to cherry-pick only profitable areas. They should not be authorised to operate if they practice social dumping in a national market through instances of unfair competition.



## UPHOLD MINIMUM USO REQUIREMENTS AND MAKE LIBERALISATION WORK FOR THE POSTAL SECTOR!

Current definitions of the USO in terms of quality, affordability, accessibility, delivery time and frequency standards must be upheld and/or maintained as defined in each national context. Delivery has a price and free delivery advertisements create market distortions with significant pressure on prices. Citizens should be able to make an informed choice between operators in a free market. The choice of who delivers postal items based on an informed decision based on all relevant information, needs to be encouraged. **Market liberalisation needs to be accompanied by social cohesion measures that guarantee decent wages and working conditions for all market players involved in the postal supply chain.**

