Answer to the Consultation on the implementation of the Universal Service in the postal sector in view of the market developments

Bucharest, 19 November 2014

Nobody will deny the importance of the postal sector for the economy in general, and for the community in particular.

For CESI, “universal service” is one of the crucial aspects. Employment is a major factor, workers contribute directly and indirectly to the development of the postal sector.

Regulation should be done and, within the framework of its structural policies, ERGP should help to prevent vulnerable social groups or regions from being excluded from access to essential services.

The access of all citizens and enterprises to affordable high-quality services throughout the territory is essential for the promotion of social and territorial cohesion in the European Union. CESI makes this statement by referring to the position taken by the Commission: ”The Commission is committed to promoting and improving an effective universal access to services …”.

We are of the view that the provision of postal services must be organised in such a way that a high level of consumer and user rights is ensured, and that the Universal Service is well financed in order to achieve this goal.

CESI worries deeply about the quality of Universal Services Provision when noticing the way in which some countries in Europe deal with this.

We reject the reference made to countries outside the EU such as New Zealand, Canada, USA or Australia.

To say it with the words of the Commission President: “Today is the Commission’s last opportunity”, it becomes clear to us that we have to safeguard our European model of services to the citizen.

CESI is worried about the employment and working conditions for the personnel of postal services.

Competition may not lead to a profitable outcome for the postal operators alone, therefore, the citizens and the workers continue to support the current USO.

As European postal stakeholder (labour association) CESI notices that the liberalisation has produced a few winners and many losers with massive deterioration of employment and working conditions.

STOP TO THE DETERIORATION OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATIONS.

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