



The European Social
Dialogue Committee
FOR THE POSTAL SECTOR
Comité Européen du
Dialogue Social
POUR LE SECTEUR POSTAL



JOINT CONTRIBUTION FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE FOR THE POSTAL SECTOR TO THE POSTAL DIRECTIVE REVIEW

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The European Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee for postal services recognises that the universal service is the core of the European regulatory framework for postal services. The review of the European regulatory framework needs to maintain its central focus on the universal service and its sustainable provision. Societal and economic developments such as digitalisation and technological advances have impacted the postal sector. Universal Service Providers have had to adapt to these changes to meet changing user and customer demands. The European social partners for the postal sector recognize that fair working conditions support a sustainable and high-quality universal service provision. In case decision-makers in Europe decide to review the European postal regulatory framework, they need to recognise the diversity of national markets, progress of digitization and user needs in the different member states. European legislators need to uphold the crucial role postal services play in promoting social and territorial cohesion. Defining a minimum of universal service features at European level is crucial to guarantee the universal character of the postal service and promote territorial and social cohesion. Therefore, the European postal social partners call upon the legislators to allow Universal Service Providers to adapt their networks taking into account local and regional circumstances. The European postal regulatory framework, whilst guaranteeing a level-playing field, should allow postal providers to introduce innovative delivery solutions and offer services adapted to changing customer needs. The universal service obligations need to respect a principle of economic sustainability and raise the question of the funding of the universal service. In reviewing the European postal regulatory framework, the European legislators must enable postal operators to adapt to economic and market developments while upholding a high quality of service and fair working conditions. Where prices for universal services do not or cannot cover the costs, public resources need to refund the universal service provider.

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