

ERGP STAKEHOLDERS FORUM 2019

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Good morning,

Dear Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friend and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to open the 2nd ERGP Stakeholders Forum and to do it as ERGP chair in 2019.

As you all know, ERGP is highly committed to ensure the independent, consistent, and high-quality application of the regulatory framework for the benefit of Europe and its citizens. It does so by outlining main strategic priorities, namely promoting competition and investment; promoting the internal market; and empowering and protecting end-users.

I like to recall these principles from time to time in order not to forget what regulation is about.

This is particular important in an inspiring period like the one we live today. Developments in technology, in the postal markets, as well as the continuous change in consumers' needs, expectations and behaviours, are affecting all sectors of the economy and society.

We believe that ERGP only does its job in a proper way if we listen to all Stakeholders. Therefore, we enrolled for the Forum a wide variety of stakeholders: postal providers, unions, online platforms, national regulatory authorities, international organizations, postal and e-commerce associations.

We believe also that if we want do our job in an appropriate way we need to ensure that we reach other latitudes, we listen other regulatory experiences, we pay attention to emergent and innovative issues. Dialogue with our international counterparts and international authorities responsible for the regulation of the postal sector, is of paramount importance. The give us this perspective, we will hear about regulatory experiences in China, in Europe, in the United States, worldwide.

Our mission today is to reflect on the changes and challenges brought by this new postal ecosystem, including also e-commerce. And it's relevant to see that the participation in this second edition of the ERGP Stakeholders Forum is increasingly reflecting the variety of players that are present in this ecosystem. And the same goes for this year stakeholder's forum programme.

We will start by presenting the ERGP Draft Medium Term Strategy 2020-2022 and the ERGP Draft Work Programme 2020. I want to invite you all to submit written comments to these documents.

After the coffee break, we will collect experiences about which postal regulation is needed, in view of the ERGP Opinion on the future regulatory review, recently published.

The emergence of new players in the e-commerce market offers new opportunities for consumers but also creates new regulatory challenges.

Therefore, we will discuss how e-commerce is shaping the postal market and which regulation is needed in the session after lunch. I have the pleasure to announce that this session will be preceded by a keynote speech from Timo Pesonen, Director General DG GROW from the European Commission, which will highlight us about the priorities of the European Commission for the future of the sector.

Postal issues are becoming more global and our national decision are more interrelated with the decision taken by other administrations.

Therefore, we conclude the Forum with a debate on the need to regulate international mail market, the implications of the discussion about terminal dues and the need for a reform at UPU.

It is my pleasure to announce that as an introduction to this debate, we will count with the keynote speech of Bishar Abdirahman Hussein, UPU Director General.

I really hope that we have a very productive Forum and that we all highly benefit from the debate and opinions expressed today. Therefore, I would urge you to use the opportunities of this forum to present your views and share your experiences.

With this, I will now pass the floor to Spyros Pantelis, ERGP Incoming chair, who will take of the session about the draft ERGP Medium Term Strategy in 2020-2022 and the draft WP in 2020.

Spyros, the floor is yours.

Thank you for your attention. And once again, welcome.