



C O M M U N I C A T I O N

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Composed of men and women members of associations, trade union organizations, social and political movements, institutional representatives, local authorities, the European Network for Public Services expresses its deeper concern about the new postal directive examined this end of the year by the European council. This directive recommends the end of the reserved area for the mail of less than 50g to the national Postal Services, which allows them to finance the mission of universal service. With this intention the Commission proposes unacceptable solutions for the European community:

The directive directly threatens the quality and perennality of the employment of millions of postal workers and of dependent industries through Europe. Since the beginning of the process of liberalization, one does not count any more the suppressions of employment (more than 100 000 in a few years between Germany, France and the United Kingdom), with the introduction of flexibility, with the temporary employment, imposed part time and subcontracting founding a statute of "worker at request", even using child labor, in Germany for instance. All that is in line with the "flexicurity" ideology preached by the Commission.

The directive does not meet the needs of the users of the European Postal service, while being directed towards a rise in the tariffs for the smaller users, the end of the uniform tariffs and the reduction of the infrastructures of access and the services, letter-boxes, number and schedules of collections, reduction of the network of post offices.

The directive puts in danger the concepts of social and territorial cohesion that the European post offices always assumed near the community. By preaching the acceleration of closings or the transformations into poor substitutes of the post offices, the commission approves a process which goes against the principles retained in preamble to the directive and the European treaties, especially in matters of economic and social cohesion for the community .

The postal public services cannot put up with a total opening of the mail market. It is a fragile sector, whose results are closely related to the economic health of the countries, it is also a sector which is not expanding with the competition of new technologies of communication. In spite of that, the European Commission does not adopt a careful position and bases itself on truncated studies because they do not relate to the quality of employment (last study published in 2002 on figures of 2000) and even less on the satisfaction of the needs for the European users, citizens, industry and communities.

We dismiss this proposal of opening, as we oppose any intermediate measurement (opening to 20g for example), it would be a step moreover toward one liberalization that made only damage until today.

The commission would rather work at the creation of a postal public utility on a European scale, meeting the users requirements, making benefits from the best economies of scale that such a service in network could provide.

Why not with a uniform tariff of the mail from Stockholm to Grenade?