

B. Postal Services Sector

1. Introduction

In the postal services sector, the goal of EETT, in line with its responsibilities as specified in Law 2668/1998, is to ensure the operation of fair competition and the provision of Universal Service (US), as well as to upgrade the quality of the services provided to the benefit of the consumers. Thus, during 2002 EETT instituted procedures for supervision of the postal market, which aimed at ensuring smooth operation of the market. EETT also conducted studies to investigate the degree of compliance of postal services providers with their obligations, and to assess the measures required for further development of the market and for strengthening competition, always with a view to ensure provision of better service to postal services users.

2. Legislative Framework

Law 2668/1998 incorporated Directive 1997/67/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for the development of the internal market of Community postal services and the improvement of quality of service into Greek law. In application of this Law, the following Regulatory Acts were issued:

- ▶ Ministerial Decision 57810/1999⁸⁵, specifying conditions and necessary supporting documents for obtaining a General Authorisation for Provision of Postal Services, and other related matters.
- ▶ Ministerial Decision 53828⁸⁶, amending Ministerial

Decision 57810/1999.

- ▶ Ministerial Decision 25961⁸⁷, specifying conditions and necessary supporting documents for obtaining an Individual Licence for Provision of Postal Services, and other related matters.
- ▶ Ministerial Decision 29030⁸⁸, specifying the cases in which payment of compensation for inadequate provision of postal services is imposed.
- ▶ Ministerial Decision 79293⁸⁹, determining quality specifications of and terms for provision of US.

Directive 2002/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 June 2002 amending Directive 1997/67/EC with regard to the further opening to competition of Community postal services, was issued in 2002 and focused on ensuring US provision and improving quality of service. This new Directive amended primarily article 7 of the existing Directive 1997/67/EC, specifying lower weight limits for the services reserved to Universal Service Providers (USPs). Harmonisation of Greek law with the above Directive is yet to take place.

3. Market Liberalisation

In common with other European countries, the model followed in Greece is the controlled gradual liberalisation model. In addition to the benefits offered by competition and free entrepreneurship, this particular model ensures a smooth transition for citizens from a market with monopolistic features to a fully liberalised one. More specifically,

⁸⁵ FEK Issue 437/B/23-04-1999.

⁸⁶ FEK Issue 1580/B/28-12-2000.

⁸⁷ FEK Issue 671/B/30-05-2000.

⁸⁸ FEK Issue 683/B/02-06-2000.

⁸⁹ FEK Issue 1588/B/29-12-2000.