



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURES, TRANSPORT AND NETWORKS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POST
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POST
DIRECTORATE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES
SECTOR OF POSTAL SERVICES

Athens, 13/02/2013

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Prot. Number.: OIK 7728/190

SUBJECT: Determination of the content of the Universal Postal Service (U.S.)

DECISION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER

FOR DEVELOPMENT, COMPETITIVENESS, INFRASTRUCTURES, TRANSPORT AND NETWORKS

Considering:

1. The provisions:
 - a. of article 6 par. 4 of law 4053/2012 «Regulation of operation of postal market, matters of electronic communications and other provisions» (A' 44),
 - b. of article 90 of Legislation Code for the Government and government agencies, ratified by the first article of the Presidential Decree 63/2005 (A' 98),
 - c. of the Presidential Decree 293/1999 «Organisation of the Ministry of Transports and Communications» (A' 263), as amended and in force.
2. Prime Minister's Decision Y43/05.7.2012 "Allocation of responsibilities to the Alternate Minister of Development, Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Transport & Networks, Mr. Stavros Kalogiannis" (Government Gazette: B'2094).
3. The document of the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (HTPC) under protocol number: 664/59/10.09.2012, by virtue of which its required opinion is provided with regards to the present decision.

4. The necessity to timely regulate the content of the provision of universal postal service, given that this adjustment radically affects:
- The viable provision of the U.S.
 - The development of a healthy and balanced competition for the benefit of the users (individuals and businesses)
 - The creation of one known –in advance- (prior to January 1, 2013, date of full liberalization of the postal sector) and stable regime ensuring the financing of the U.S. that will provide regulatory certainty in the framework of postal service providers' activities.
5. The fact that by virtue of the provisions of the present decision no expenditure is caused on the state budget.

W E D E C I D E

Article 1

Content of universal service

1. The universal service guarantees the clearance and delivery of the postal items referred to in par. 5 of the present at the home or premises of every natural or legal person, once (1) for every working day throughout the territory at an affordable price
2. The universal service provider disposes of at least one access point for the clearance of the correspondence for each 1000 residents in urban areas and at least one access point in each settlement in the rural areas of the country.
3. Subject to an explicit regulation different from the provisions of the present, the tariffs of all the services provided within the scope of the universal service must be affordable and, to the extent possible, cost-oriented as well as to give incentives for the efficient universal service provision.
4. Tariffs must be in line with the principles of transparency and non-discrimination, uniform throughout the Territory, and also for cross-border services, when they are provided at single piece tariff per postal item.
5. The universal service includes the following services of domestic and cross-border correspondence:

- a) The clearance, transport, sorting and delivery of all postal items weighting up to 2 kilograms, in addition to items of correspondence, such items indicatively also include books, catalogues, newspapers, periodicals, etc., as well as advertising mail with the addressee's address
- b) the clearance, transport, sorting and delivery of postal packages weighing up to twenty (20) kilograms,
- c) the services for registered items and items of declared value.

6. The terms and conditions of provision of services, included in the universal service and provided by the universal service provider, are described in detail in the Charter of Obligations towards Users (Consumers) (C.O.C.), which the universal service provider is obliged to render easily accessible to the consumers and to display on its website.

7. The minimum and maximum dimensions of the postal items are determined by the applicable relevant provisions adopted by the Universal Postal Union.

8. The universal service covers services within the Greek territory and services of International Post.

9. Postal Services, falling within the framework of General License of Postal Services, are provided by the Universal Service Provider under general license regime.

10. The services within the scope of the universal service are determined on the basis of the needs of the users, the technology progress and the development of the market forces. Any amendment in the content of the universal service must take into consideration the period necessary for the adaptation of the universal service provider and/or the recovery of eventual cost

11. HTPC, within regular time intervals, examines the degree of growth of the services within the scope of universal service, referring to the technical, financial, social environment, and the extent of satisfaction the reasonable needs of the users. In case it is necessary, at its discretion, HTPC recommends to the Minister the amendment of the content of the universal service, in order this content to correspond to the actual needs of the postal market and the users.

12. HTPC may apply different level of regulating each service within the scope of the universal service, taking in consideration the level of competition, the measures taken by the universal service

provider in order to cover the reasonable needs of the users as well as any other matter it deems necessary for the viability of the US and the development of the market.

13. The postal items within the scope of the universal service shall bear the trademark of the postal service provider, to which they were deposited.

Article 2

Postal circulation of printed items of cultural content

For the periodicals or other printed items of scientific, artistic, professional, religious or other similar content, the universal service provider is entitled to subsidize their price by other services that it provides, if the Secretariat General of Information and Communication and Secretariat General of Media issues a relevant decision, pursuant to the European Union competition law provisions.

Article 3

Provision of postal services to blind or partially sighted persons

Postal services will be provided to blind or partially sighted persons under the terms and conditions that will be determined by a subsequent decision.

Article 4

Entry into force

The present enters into force after its publication at the Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
COMPETITIVENESS, INFRASTRUCTURES, TRANSPORT AND
NETWORKS
STAVROS KALOGIANNIS