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POSTAL
UNION



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To: Union member countries

- Governmental authorities
- Regulators

Designated operators of Union member countries

Restricted unions

Berne, 5 July 2019

Reference: 4631(DOP.SC.PT)1095

Subject: UPU global conference on cross-border cooperation in an e-commerce world

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to the above conference to be held in Xiamen, China (People's Rep.) from 26 to 28 November 2019. The conference, the agenda of which is enclosed, will be jointly organized by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and China (People's Rep.).

The conference will focus on UPU cross-border issues in the e-commerce era, with a special emphasis on cross-border cooperation, which is three-pronged and which exists at the global, regional and national levels. The conference aims to help explore new avenues for enhancing cooperation and coordination at all three of these levels. Please kindly note that the working language of the conference is English.

Customs and transport occupy an important place in the Istanbul World Postal Strategy, the UPU's roadmap for the current Congress cycle (2017–2020). The cross-border impact on the postal supply chain is profound and increases at export, in transit and at destination. Designated operators (DOs) are required to comply with cross-border and security obligations arising from international regulations and the conference will examine how the UPU responds to the manifold challenges associated therewith.

The UPU member countries have agreed that the number one goal for this cycle is to improve the interoperability of network infrastructure. Interoperability and data exchange – leading to integration of WCO–UPU joint processes for customers in enhancing efficient risk management and clearance, and improved quality of service – will be key discussion points at the conference.

The conference will also highlight ways of facilitating capacity building and awareness raising, and will focus on the tools for improving supply chain processes and compliance. Building the electronic bridge between Posts, Customs, airlines and cross-border management agencies is of crucial importance. The UPU has taken decisive steps towards establishing an electronic customs-airline-postal interface, and IT solutions designed to support supply chain data processing.

The provision of electronic advance data (EAD) to airlines and customs' authorities for faster and safer transport and customs clearance of postal items has become essential for all DOs.

Exploring new ways of facilitating trade and reaping the benefits resulting from the growth of e-commerce will figure high on the conference agenda. Within the e-commerce area, Posts, airlines and Customs have identified a number of priority areas – exchange of pre-loading and pre-arrival air cargo information, customs processing, pre-calculation/prepayment of duties and taxes, revenue collection and delivery issues – requiring urgent attention.

Part of the conference will be devoted to security-related matters affecting cross-border issues from a UPU standpoint, especially the UPU certification programme to recognize Posts that demonstrate compliance with UPU security standards.

The transport of postal items by rail is a new area that will greatly enhance e-commerce trade. The conference will highlight the work already completed and the next steps in these areas by all the stakeholders involved (UPU, rail organizations and member countries). It would be useful for Posts, rail organizations and other stakeholders to learn about the new mode of transport of international mail by rail.

Given the importance of customs issues affecting postal items and the growing significance of cross-border e-commerce in the postal supply chain, your participation is crucial.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to welcoming you at the conference.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Bishar A. Hussein
Director General

(signed)

MA Junsheng
Director General
State Post Bureau
China (People's Rep.)