



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 14 August 2006

International Bureau Circular

286

Benin – Illegal postage stamp issues

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **BENIN** asks me to inform you of the following:

"In recent weeks, we have received letters from philatelists, stamp issuing bodies and stamp catalogue publishers, asking us to confirm whether stamps with certain themes had in fact been issued.

"For example, there were apparently several issues to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Europa. These included:

- the planet Saturn
 - great feats of human engineering;
 - national parks;
 - handicrafts;
 - holidays;
 - Africanism;
- etc.

"However, none of these stamps are to be found in the Benin stamp vault. Needless to say, my administration has never authorized the issues, which are illegal and have been sold fraudulently.

"You are reminded that Benin Post has suffered from these practices for years, and that they are extremely damaging."

Yours faithfully,

K J S McKEOWN
Director of Markets Development