



UNIVERSAL
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 6 April 2009
International Bureau Circular
Croatia – Postage Stamps

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Dear Sir/Madam

The Government of the **REPUBLIC OF CROATIA** asks me to inform you of the following:

"We regret to have to draw the attention of UPU member countries to the inappropriate conduct of one UPU member country, Italy. On 10 December 2007, the Italian Post (Poste Italiane) circulated a postage stamp bearing the following inscription: "Fiume – terra orientale già italiana" (Rijeka – former eastern territory of Italy), accompanied by an article on the subject signed by the President of the association "Libero commune di Fiume in Esilio" (Association of the Free Municipality of Rijeka in exile).

"Since the city of Rijeka is part of the Croatian territory, and given the fact that the content of the text accompanying the postage stamp issue is extremely offensive to the Croatian people, as well as being historically inaccurate, we consider the circulation of stamps of this nature inappropriate and contrary to article 8 of the Universal Postal Convention, which clearly stipulates that the subjects and motifs of postage stamps must be in keeping with the spirit of the Preamble to the UPU Constitution and that they shall be devoid of a political character or of any topic of an offensive nature in respect of a person or a country.

"In view of the fact that the postage stamp in question is of a clearly political character and, furthermore, offensive in nature, we feel it necessary to draw the attention of UPU members to the inappropriateness of Italy's conduct, which is certainly not in keeping with the spirit of friendship and understanding expected of two neighbouring countries. We also wish to express our deep concern at the possibility that other postage stamps of a similar political and offensive character may be issued; indeed, Croatia has already expressed protests and concerns to the Italian authorities.

"Given the possibility that this practice might continue, we have been obliged to take the step of informing all UPU member countries through this channel of Poste Italiane's conduct, which is contrary to the provisions of the Universal Postal Convention, so as to ensure that similar cases do not occur in the future."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKeown
Director of Markets Development