

Dear Sir/Madam,

The designated operator of the **VATICAN**, Poste Vaticane, wishes to inform the designated operators of UPU member countries of the following:

"Pursuant to the applicable Vatican laws and international conventions in the field of copyrights, image rights and trademarks (including, without limitation, Vatican Law of 19 March 2011, No. 132, on the protection of copyright and related rights), the Holy See through the Secretary of State owns and controls the right to use, protect and dispose of the photographic image of the Pontiffs, as well as the official emblems of the Pontiffs, the Holy See and the Vatican City State. Therefore, their exploitations in any way of manner including, in particular, for any advertising or commercial purposes, requires an authorization from the Secretary of State or the other relevant offices of the Holy See.

"Accordingly, designated operators of UPU member countries, as well as any public or private entities and individuals intending to reproduce the image of the Pontiffs or the official emblems of the Holy Fathers, the Holy See or the Vatican City State for philatelic or numismatic purposes (e.g. for stamp series, souvenir sheets, special envelopes, folders, philatelic items, medals, coins, numismatic items), or for any other direct or indirect commercial purposes, must contact the Secretary of State of the Holy See or the Philatelic and Numismatic Office of the Vatican City State in order to ask for the relevant authorization, which, where granted, shall be stipulated in the form of a licence agreement.

"The unauthorized use, for any commercial or advertising purposes, of the image of Pontiffs or of the official emblems of the Holy Fathers, the Holy See or the Vatican City State is considered a serious offence and shall be prosecuted through the competent Vatican and international authorities."

Yours faithfully,

Murray Buchanan
Director of Economic and Regulatory Affairs