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To:

- Designated operators of Union member countries

For information to:

- Restricted unions

Berne, 19 May 2025

**Reference:** 4631(DOP.SC.TLD)1054

**Subject: Questionnaire relating to the average weighted distance and compensation for costs arising from air conveyance inside the country of destination**

Dear Sir/Madam,

/ I have pleasure in enclosing the questionnaire (Annex 1) designed to gather designated operators' data for international incoming letter post forwarded by air within the country of destination.

Please complete this questionnaire if your designated operator uses air conveyance of international incoming mail within your country. You will receive compensation if the weighted average distance of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal network exceeds 300 kilometres.

As you know, in accordance with article 34-101.6 of the UPU Convention Regulations, the International Bureau (IB) is responsible for calculating the weighted average distance for each designated operator entitled under article 34.5 of the Convention to reimbursement of the additional costs incurred for the air conveyance of international letter-post items within its country.

I would remind you that, in accordance with article 34.7 of the Convention, the designated operator of destination shall exclude, for the purpose of calculating the weighted average distance, the weight of all mails for which the terminal dues calculation has been based specifically on costs, domestic rates or self-declared rates set under article 29 of the Convention. The payment of air conveyance dues shall only be made in relation to the mail flows from and between countries in the transitional system below 100 tonnes a year, i.e. the mail flows to which the terminal dues remuneration rates in article 31.11 of the Convention apply.

/ As indicated in article 34-101.6 of the Convention Regulations (the IB commentary on article 85 of the 1989 Washington Convention, containing comprehensive information on the method of calculation, is attached as Annex 2), the weighted average distance is calculated in terms of the gross weight of all the airmails arriving at the country of destination, including the mail which is not reforwarded by air within that country (more details in the questionnaire in Annex 1). This data is based on statistics prepared by designated operators which should be provided to the IB each year.

Designated operators that do not provide this information in the time allotted will not be able to request payment of internal air conveyance dues.

Furthermore, I would like to draw special attention to the fact that it is imperative to submit all data requested in the questionnaire, including the data concerning items reforwarded by *surface*, both the quantity (in kilogrammes) and the surface conveyance cost.

To help clarify the calculation methodology, the full text of article 34-101.6 of the Convention Regulations is reproduced here:

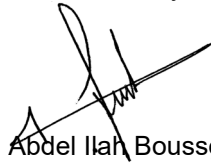
*"When dues are payable for air conveyance within the country of destination, they shall be fixed in the form of a single price. This single price shall include all the dues for air conveyance within the country, regardless of the airport of arrival of the mails, less the corresponding surface conveyance costs. It shall be calculated on the basis of the rates actually paid for conveyance of the mail within the country of destination, but not exceeding the maximum rate defined according to the formula under 2, and according to the weighted average distances of the sectors flown by international mail on the internal network. Subject to article 34.7 of the Convention, the weighted average distance shall be calculated by the International Bureau in terms of the gross weight of all the airmails arriving at the country of destination, including the mail which is not reforwarded by air within that country."* (Italics and underlining added.)

To enable us to keep the calculation of weighted average distances up to date, please let me have, by means of the questionnaire, your most recent airmail statistical data to be taken into account by the IB. This data should be notified to the IB **by 30 September 2025 at the latest** (see articles 34-101.6.1 and 34-101.6.2 of the Convention Regulations).

Compliance with the above return date is essential if we are to include your data in the new IB circular and thus enable other designated operators, where applicable, to use your data for calculating their rates for airmail intended for abroad.

The basic rate for air conveyance of mail for 2025 is 0.590 thousandths of an SDR per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre (0.590 SDR per tonne/kilometre) (see IB circular No. 68 of 13 May 2024).

Yours faithfully,



Abdel Ilah Bousseta  
Director of Postal Operations