

THE LIBERALISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES - THE CURRENT SITUATION IN FINLAND

In Finland the current postal legislation already make it possible to have competition in postal services, but because of the tight rules there are not competition in postal sector. Because of the directive we have to change the legislation in some parts. The process is in progress right now.

The current situation is that the legislation workgroup should have give the committee report already to the minister of the communications, but the timetable is delayed and they will get they work done in this month, so in April we know what is the intention of the workgroup. The Union have not been part of the workgroup, but we will have chance to present our opinion after the minister get the report.

In Finland the research institute just this Tuesday published the report on this subject. The purpose of the research is to show what will happen in Finland to postal services if there really is a competition.

At the research is very interesting analyse about the economy effects if there will be competition in the biggest cities in Finland (where are 30 per cent of the citizens and mail) and the current postal operator Itella will lose 40 per cent of its market share to competitors in those big cities. The calculation shows that if the competition will happen like that the universal postal services will be unprofitable and in that example the amount was around 80 million € what the loss is in profit and loss account. That is considerable, because in Finland the postal services have been effective and profitable and the postal operator have every year paid shares from 30 to 80 million € for the state.

The Union have recently met almost all the parliament groups in Finland and we can say that also the politicians are worried about the postal services and the financial worry is being urgent. The problem is that now the state have to carry the cost of the postal services in rural areas, when so far the postal operator have carried those costs for the profits that it get from big cities. The estimated amount of money per year that you can say to be regional policy subsidy is 150 million €.

So in Finland the Union is not so worried about the working conditions, because our collective agreements system will ensure that all the postal operator have to follow the same rules concerning the working conditions. The worry that we are dealing is the loss what will happen to national economy because of the directive and of course that will have influence also to salary progress in postal sector.

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