

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

**Hearing into the Acts of the Universal Postal Union adopted by the 26th Congress: Ninth
Additional Protocol to the Constitution, First Additional Protocol to the General
Regulations, Convention and Final Protocol, and Postal Payment Services Agreement and
Final Protocol.**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Ms Susan Templeman MP asked:

It would be good to get a sketch of the other countries that make a loss under the UPU arrangements.

Answer:

Factors affecting whether postal operators record a loss in inbound international letter-post items include inbound remuneration rates as well as a number of country specific factors. These include the volume and make-up of inbound mail items, cost structures and geographic spread. In general, industrialised countries that are net-importers of mail (like Australia), are more likely to record losses under the existing Universal Postal Union remuneration arrangements, because payments do not fully cover the costs of delivery.

One of the key outcomes for Australia at the 26th Congress of the Universal Postal Union was improvement to the remuneration paid to designated postal operators for delivering inbound international letter-post mail. Australia achieved significant improvements to its terminal dues rates at the 26th Congress and is pursuing further improvements in this cycle.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

The Hon Stuart Robert MP asked

When was the target system implemented?

Answer:

The terminal dues system sets the rates that designated postal operators are paid for delivering inbound international letter-post mail under Universal Postal Union arrangements. The target system sets the specific terminal dues designated operators pay by country.

The Universal Postal Union established an initial terminal dues system that differentiated between developing and industrialised countries at the 1999 Beijing Congress. This took effect on 1 January 2001. The 2004 Bucharest Congress first established the target system applicable to industrialised countries and the transitional system applicable to developing countries. This took effect on 1 January 2006.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Mrs Nola Marino MP asked:

What proportion of inbound articles are screened?

Answer:

The Australian Border Force (ABF) is responsible for protecting Australia's border and managing the movement of people and goods across it. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) is responsible for managing biosecurity risks to the environment and to human, animal and plant health by ensuring the safe movement of millions of people, goods, vessels and aircraft into and out of Australia. Australia Post works collaboratively with ABF and DAWR in the four gateway facilities to handle inbound international mail and present required items for inspection.

All inbound international mail items are risk assessed by the ABF and DAWR. ABF inspects 100 per cent of high-risk items. DAWR intervenes with articles based on the level of biosecurity risk presented. This includes non-intrusive assessment of mail items by visual assessment, x-ray and/or detector dog.

In 2016/17, ABF inspected 58.5 million mail items, compared with 57.3 million in 2015/16. This is against total inbound volumes of over 100 million items in 2016/17.

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Answers to Questions on Notice

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald asked:

Who is on the UPU Consultative Committee at the moment, who or what do they represent and what are their qualifications?

Answer:

The current members of the Consultative Committee are:

Government members ¹	Non-government members ²
Argentina	Digital Europe
Burkina Faso	Ecommerce Europe (Chair)
Italy	Federation of European Direct and Interactive Marketing (FEDMA)
Mexico	Global Address Data Association (GADA)
Morocco	Global Envelope Alliance (GEnA)
New Zealand (Vice-Chair)	Global Express Association (GEA)
Senegal	International Mailers' Advisory Group (IMAG)
United States of America	International Post Corporation (IPC)
	International Publisher and Postal Association (IPPA)
	Latin American Association of Private Posts and Postal Operators (ALACOPP)
	Latin American Institute for Electronic Commerce (eInstituto)
	UNI Global Union
	World Blind Union (WBU)
	Xplor International

The qualifications of the individual members are not readily available.

¹ Government members represent the interests of their respective jurisdictions.

² Non-government members represent the views of their industry sector.

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Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald asked:

Could you also indicate, if it's readily available, the budget for the operations of the Consultative Committee?

Answer:

The Consultative Committee is funded by membership fees from non-government members and a contribution from the Universal Postal Union budget. The Universal Postal Union budget is reported¹ to contribute CHF28,000 (approximately AUD \$38,000) in 2015 and CHF33,000 (approximately AUD \$45,000) in 2016 to the Consultative Committee. The overall operational budget including non-government member contributions is not publicly available.

¹ Source: Meeting paper for UPU Council of Administration meeting of October 2017 'Financial statements of the Universal Postal Union for 2016'