



Matthew Ward
Postcomm
Hercules House
6 Hercules Road
London SE1 7DB

20 December 2004

Dear Mr. Ward,

Re: Royal A revised market opening timetable

The European Express Association (EEA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to PostComm's consultation, "**A revised market opening timetable**", where PostComm proposes to open the UK postal market for competition by 1 January 2006. While this step does not have a direct impact on the express industry as global logistics and supply chain integrators, the EEA is of the opinion that full market opening in the UK will lead to healthy competition across the larger UK delivery market. In turn consumers will benefit from increased innovation and development in the various sectors involved in the delivery industry.

Furthermore, the EEA believes that if United Kingdom abolishes its reserved area in the postal sector by 1 January 2006, it would send important signals of support for the European Union's long-term goal to create an internal and truly dynamic delivery sector in Europe, where the postal sector plays an important role.

The EEA would, however, like to take this opportunity to reiterate its concern over the inclusion of Royal Mail's service '**Special Delivery Next Day**' in the universal service. The features of this specific service are identical to those of express services. We believe that this step will undermine our ability to provide similar services, which always have been provided in an environment of full competition, as it increases the risk of competitive distortion.

The EEA is of the opinion that it is vital for the future success of the wider delivery market that express delivery services do not become part of the universal service obligation.

Yours sincerely,

Mark van der Horst
Chairman of the EEA Competition & Market Reform Committee