



## **MEETING OF ASSOCIATIONS OF PRIVATE OPERATORS AND THE UPU (AOP-UPU)**

Berne, 30 April 1998

### **Status of UPU members**

(Agenda item 4)

### **Paper by the Netherlands**

#### **I. Introduction**

1 At the Congress in Seoul it was decided that one of the tasks of the newly installed Council of Administration was to review the Universal Postal Union and its activities as regards "the status of members, and in particular the possibility for representatives of parties concerned by international postal activity to participate in certain Union work". The Netherlands, one of the members of the Council of Administration, was prepared to start the work on this study.

2 The Netherlands started the work by investigating the existing possibilities for representatives of parties concerned by international postal activities to participate in the work of the UPU and to describe the possibilities for observers in the work of other specialized organizations of the United Nations (the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunications Union and the International Maritime Organization). On the basis of the information gathered and taking into account the specific tasks and functions of the Universal Postal Union, the Netherlands prepared a document containing "Rules governing the relationship with non-governmental international organizations".

3 These "rules" specify that all different categories of non-governmental international organizations whose interests and activities are related to the objectives of the Universal Postal Union can ask to be granted "consultative status". Examples of possible interested parties are international consumers' associations, international employees' organizations, international organizations of private operators and/or international user associations. The "rules" contain a description of the way the consultative status shall be granted and it describes the privileges and obligations conferred on the organizations after having being granted consultative status.

#### **II. Progress of the study**

4 The Netherlands made some first proposals in the spring of 1997 and presented these to the working party responsible for the study (Working Party CA WP 1.1 "Management of the Union's Work"). In order to inform all member countries of the POC and the CA of the work in progress and to ask their views on the study, the Working Party decided that a short questionnaire should

be prepared by the Netherlands which would be distributed to the members of the POC and the CA.

This questionnaire has been sent out in summer 1997. The discussions within the Working Party and the answers to the questionnaire revealed that the principle of granting consultative status seems to be approved by the member countries of the UPU. However, concern existed with regard to the participation of non-governmental international organizations in the more commercial and operational activities of the Union. This information and other important feedback received from the members of the Working Party and by the answers to the questionnaire helped the Netherlands to finalize the proposal. The detailed and complete wording of the proposal is annexed to this document.

5 The Netherlands shall present this latest version of the proposal to the meeting of Working Party CA WP 1.1 "Management of the Union's Work" on 29 April 1998.

### **Rules governing the relationship with non-governmental international organizations**

1 The Council of Administration can grant consultative status upon request to non-governmental international organizations whose interests and activities are related to the objectives of the Universal Postal Union and which are able to contribute to the work of the Universal Postal Union.

2 An application for the granting of consultative status must be supported by one member country of the Universal Postal Union.

3 The Council of Administration shall consider applications for the granting of consultative status once a year. The Postal Operations Council shall be formally consulted concerning the request. Applications must be received one month before a plenary meeting of the Postal Operations Council.

4 The granting of consultative status to a non-governmental international organization shall confer the following privileges on that organization:

- a The right to receive the provisional agenda for meetings of Congress, the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council and their respective Committees.
- b The right to submit written statements on items of the agenda of meetings of Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council and their respective Committees which are of interest to the non-governmental international organization concerned.
- c The right to be represented by an observer during meetings of Congress, the Council of Administration, the Postal Operations Council and their respective Committees. Such an observer shall have no voting rights but may speak on any item on the agenda.
- d The right to receive the texts adopted by Congress, the Council of Administration or the Postal Operations Council and the appropriate preparatory and supporting documents.

5 The right to be represented as an observer at meetings or part of meetings may be restricted when the presence of observers might impede the smooth functioning of such meetings. The right to receive the preparatory and supporting documents of those meetings may also be restricted. The restrictions shall be specified at the moment of the granting of consultative status\*, but can be extended at those moments that a chairman of the meeting decides so. Those extensions shall be reported to the Council of Administration.

6 The granting of consultative status to a non-governmental international organization shall confer the following obligations on that organization:

- a it shall keep the Secretary-General informed of those aspects of its own activities which are likely to be of interest to the Universal Postal Union and accord to the Universal Postal Union privileges corresponding to those which are granted to it by the Union;
- b it shall contribute to the additional costs arising from the granting of the consultative status. This contribution shall take into account the costs for the distribution of documents, and – in the case it occurs – the costs related to UPU – activities to which they want to associate themselves. The level of contribution to be paid will be specified at the moment of the granting of the consultative status, but shall not exceed the equivalent of 1/4 UPU contribution unit. In the situation that the payment of contribution forms an obstacle to the organization to ask for the consultative status, it may put its case before the Council of Administration which can decide to lift (part of) this obligation.

7 The Council of Administration may, after consultation of the Postal Operations Council, withdraw or suspend consultative status to an organization if changes occur in the nature, purpose or activities of the organization concerned which, in the opinion of the Council of Administration, make continuance of consultative status to that organization inappropriate or incompatible with the objectives of the Universal Postal Union.

\* The following meetings can remain closed for organizations having consultative status:

POC WP 1.1 Terminal Dues

POC WP 1.2 Transit charges

POC WP 3.1 Financial Services

POC WP 4.1 EMS and the new range of parcel post products/services

POC WP 4.3 Consignment service

POC WP 6.1 Marketing Coordination

EMS Meetings (symposiums and other)