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To: The designated operators of Union  
member countries

For information to:  
Restricted unions

Berne, 17 May 2021

**Reference:** 4631(DOP.SC.TP)1050

**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 33-101.5 of the UPU Convention Regulations, the International Bureau (IB) is responsible for calculating the weighted average distance for each designated operator entitled under article 33.5 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 33.7 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 the new article 28bis of the Convention (which entered into force on 1 January 2020). This applies in particular to exchanges between countries in the target terminal dues system (see article 29 of the Convention) and to part of the mail that these countries receive from countries in the transitional system (see article 30.9 of the Convention).

/ As indicated in article 33-101.5 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 the designated operators which should reach the International Bureau each year.

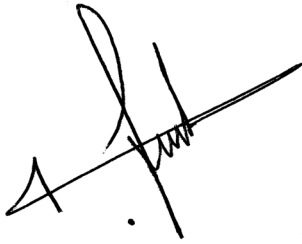
Designated operators that do not provide this information in the time allotted will not be able to request payment of internal air conveyance dues.

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 International Bureau **by 30 September 2021 at the latest** (see article 33-101.5.1 and 33-101.5.2 of the Convention Regulations).

Compliance with the above return date is therefore 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 2021 is 0.486 thousandths of an SDR per kilogramme of gross weight and per kilometre (0.486 SDR per tonne/kilometre) (see IB circular 63 of 13 April 2020).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Abdel Ilah Bousseta  
Director of Postal Operations