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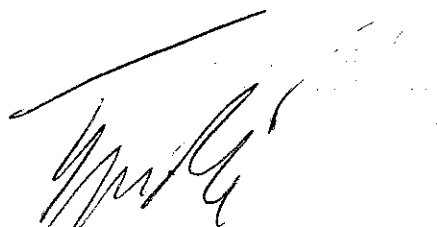
Dear Messrs Andersen and Büttner,

Thank you for your letter of 9 April expressing concern at what you perceive as a threat to a minimum wage in the postal sector.

The recently adopted Third Postal Services Directive¹ states that it is without prejudice to the competence of the Member States to regulate employment conditions, covering such matters as minimum pay, in the postal services sector. It also ensures respect of the terms and conditions of employment and social security schemes laid down in national legislation or negotiated by social partners at national level.

The Commission fully supports these requirements and attaches the utmost importance to the social dimension of the liberalisation of postal services. Nonetheless, minimum wages are a subject of exclusive competence of the Member States, and the Commission cannot intervene in this area.

Yours sincerely,



¹ Directive 2008/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 February 2008 amending Directive 97/67/EC with regard to the full accomplishment of the internal market of Community postal services (OJ L 52, 27.2.2008, p. 3).

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