



POSTAL OPERATIONS COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA (REP.), CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MONTENEGRO, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, UKRAINE, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Draft decision CEP x/2022.1

Co-chair position in the Customs Group

The Postal Operations Council,

Mindful of
the Preamble to the Union's Constitution and article 112.5 of the General Regulations of the Union,

Also mindful of
articles 5 and 8 of the POC Rules of Procedure,

Having regard to
the noble principles, purpose and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Also having regard to
United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 on Aggression Against Ukraine, which deplores in the strongest terms the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in violation of Article 2 (4) of the Charter,

Considering that
postal services are essential to the provision of basic services to vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and the elderly,

Aware that
the Russian Federation's military actions in Ukraine have hindered the delivery of the aforementioned postal services and risked the lives of postal staff in Ukraine, which is in contradiction with the Union's aim to secure the organization and improvement of the postal services and to promote in this sphere the development of international collaboration,

Cognizant of
the Union's strategy and the related mandate given by the Abidjan Congress (as per the business plan finalized by the Council of Administration) to the Postal Operations Council to deliver various activities falling under the remit of the latter's Customs Group, many of which are pivotal to the sustainability of the Union's network and the delivery of the Union's mission as outlined in the Preamble to its Constitution,

Conscious that
leadership is a privilege, and not a right of Union member countries, and one that necessitates the ability to forge consensus among all regions of the Union's membership,

Acknowledging that

a number of Union member countries have expressed serious concerns about the Russian Federation's current ability to forge consensus-based outcomes among the wider Union membership, and therefore its ability to continue as Co-Chair of the Customs Group,

Also acknowledging that

in the light of the Russian Federation's actions in Ukraine, many Union member countries have indicated that they would be unable to engage with the Russian Federation in its capacity as Co-Chair of the aforementioned standing group,

Decides

- to formally acknowledge that the Russian Federation's continuation as Co-Chair of the Customs Group would be a risk to the successful progress of that standing group's important work programme within a challenging timeline, thus resulting in significant additional burden on the International Bureau;
- to remove the Russian Federation from its position as Co-Chair of the Customs Group with immediate effect.