



# POST

**PANHELLENIC FEDERATION  
OF POSTAL ASSOCIATIONS**

August 2012

## ANNOUNCEMENT

*Dear colleagues,*

Experiencing for fourth year in a row a big economic recession, which in our sector is multiple and having to confront the liberalization of the postal market in just four months, the Government (Interministerial Privatization Committee) and the supporting parties-ignoring the significance and the role of the Public Post in the financial, social, cultural and peripheral development of the country- announced during the summer holidays in August (complying faithfully with the political morals and the practices of the last eight years) the selling of all shares of the Hellenic Post owned by the Greek State and authorized the Fund of Utilization of the Public Sector's Private Property to design, decide and materialize the "diagnostic" procedure.



**This choice is a worldwide originality.** Across the planet, the postal service is offered by public carriers, even in the metropolis of capitalism such as: United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Russia, Canada, Argentina and throughout Europe and all over the world.

There were one or two attempts of privatization of the Public Post, made in the whole planet and they bitterly failed and once the choice created huge problems, they came back to the antecedent condition.

The Postal public character in a worldwide level, is a conscious and justified choice made by the Governments and that's because everybody want to offer the social good of the postal service in every citizen, throughout the territory, with low cost and high quality.

**It is surprising how** in the initiative for the Post's privatization, the leading role has a country as Greece, which has citizens living in vast mountainous areas and hundreds of islands. Especially when the Postal Services in total have been designated as of General Economic Interest (pensions, postal checks, bank credit transfers, retail banking etc)

*So what to persistence and rush ?*

*Creating impressions ? Ignorance of reality ?*

*Insufficiency, settlement of accounts ?*

*It is therefore obvious that against the pressures of speculations, they totally ignore the consequences of their policy from their practices applied and from the degradation of the citizens' service and the services' quality.*

The consequences from the Post's sale  
will be horrible for both society  
and its citizens as well as for the public  
and social structures' operation.

### **Selling up the Post means:**

1. Shop closures, shrinkage of the postal network.
2. Breakdown of the state's Social face.
3. Commercialization of the Post, which is one of the most powerful state expression and infrastructure.
4. Acceleration of desertification in the periphery.
5. More expensive service provided.
6. Downgrading of the quality and variety of services.
7. Exploitation only of the most profitable areas.
8. Financial reinforcement of the "investor" from the state budget for the universal state provision.
9. Reduction of the Post's contribution percentage in the GDP growth.
10. Dismissal of employees and working relations that are formed in terms of slave.

*Dear colleagues,*

**We are therefore wondering, which are these interests that lead the Government to take decisions against the common logic, the employees' propositions and the society's desire.**

**More than us, nobody cares  
about the Organism.**

**We want to fight so as to keep the Hellenic Post standing in these difficult times.**

**That's what we always did, that's what we are going to do now.**

The Post is our home, our office, our work. Besides the fact that we are living our families from this Service and we do not wish to stay on the road, we have offered and continue to offer all of our strength because we are aware of the social role and the offering of the Post in the society and the citizen that respects us and loves us.

Nowadays, it is worth quoting the words of Nikiforos Vrettakos on the significance of the postmen in the Greek society: "This trusted bearer of confidential, this liaison between people who are separated by various distances, a few mountains and some oceans, sometimes is not a common person, is not a doctor or a priest, especially in the rural areas".

We are fully aware that in the mane of changes and mandatory orders of the Memorandum and Troika, who demand the de-foundation of the social goods and utterly of the states themselves, the give away of the goods and wealth, such as the Post, will be an enterprising detail for the private individuals, another business targeting the super profit. It is more than enough to make the social structure disappear as a reference service, as a service of symbolism, unity and communication between people, elements that typify the social goods and support the edifice called Greek state.

**For that reason, we resist and fight so as to prevent this from happening.**

**Our fight is a fair and sacred one. It is a dept struggle towards the citizen, the society, our country, towards all the former generations of Postal workers, who loyally served this purpose.**



**POSTAL ASSOCIATIONS P.O.S.T.**

In case the Rulers are convinced that the Completion of a United Europe and the convergence with all the “advanced” countries of the North means: property, wretchedness, economic decline, closure of shops, clearance sale of the social goods and dissolution of any kind of utility infrastructure, we were not only not convinced, but, on the contrary, they will find us opposite and opponents in every anti-popular and “salutary” solution or regime they will try to impose us.

The protection of the Universal Service, as expressly provided for by the three European Postal Directives, the preservation of the Hellenic Post’s network- so as to totally serve their role- and the protection of the rights and acquired entitlements of the workers are our red lines and our joint decision.

**In this crucial conjuncture, our comparative advantages, resulting from our multiannual efforts and struggles, are many:**

1. We are not deficient.
2. We are not subsidized by the State.
3. We serve the entire territory.
4. We provide services which constitute a social good.
5. We incorporated and operate many services and products.
6. We modernized many shops.
7. We have experienced and qualified staff.
8. We have a powerful brand name, which is everywhere recognised.
9. Modern infrastructures were created and operated (hub premises).
10. We constitute a cornerstone of the Greek state with constant operation for 185 years, contributing, throughout the historical moments, conducting to all the great social and political developments and, nowadays, we are one of the few-not to say the only one- state services that serve the Greek periphery.

***Dear colleagues,***

Right after the announcement of the Government’s intention to privatize the Hellenic Post, we convened on the 13th of August 2012 a special meeting of the Executive Committee and we unanimously decided:

1. To open the dialogue with the Government regarding the development and not the Post’s selling out.
2. To start an information campaign for the society and reveal the Government’s pursuits.
3. To start a dialogue with the Political Parties, Deputies, Euro-deputies, Local, Prefectural and Regional authorities and the citizens over the consequences of the decision for the selling out and the privatization of the Hellenic Post.



4. In collaboration with the General Confederation of the Greek Workers, the Labor Centers and the International trade unions that we participate in, we coordinate our struggle for the protection of the social post.
5. To program Pan-Hellenic struggle procedures and targeted demonstrations in every periphery of the country.
6. To establish a permanent inter-partisan committee of coordination of our fight and
7. To urgently convoke the Wednesday 22nd of August the Pan-Hellenic Association of Postal Associations' Administrative Board in order to validate the Executive Committee's decisions, to particularize and form our overall action plan.

**Therefore, in the urgent meeting of the Administrative Board, which took place on the 22nd of August 2012, we unanimously decided:**

**✓ Scaled strikes** (three hour, 24 hour, 48 hour and continuous ones) in a Pan-Hellenic and Peripheral level.

*An inter-partisan committee was established and authorized in order to decide for the time, place and the form of our struggles and actions.*

**✓ Peripheral Conferences** with the following content:

- To inform the employees,
- The Regional Authorities,
- The citizens,
- The local media.

**In conjunction with:**

- Press conferences,
- Marches,
- Seizures,
- Strikes.

- ♦ The Peripheral Conferences will start the first week of September from the periphery of Central and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.
- ♦ Information of the public opinion through printed and electronic press over the consequences of the decision of the Hellenic Post's selling.
- ♦ Updating the Political Parties, Deputies and Euro-deputies, Local, Prefectural and Regional authorities.
- ♦ Collaboration with the General Confederation of the Greek Workers, the Labor Centers, the UNI POST and the International trade unions that we participate in, in order to coordinate a common struggle for the protection of the public post.



## Dear colleagues,

The Post was always targeted by the local and foreign interests, which were trying and still trying to form views guiding the public opinion through the controlled media and the social automatism. This policy has poisoned the social structure, breaking the solidarity and mutual assistance relations between the employees, the citizens and members of the society.

The common expressions of the flattening and corruption of everything are known and are directed against the righteous and unjust, “quite the pain to become pain for everyone”.

We nevertheless, the employees of the Post, who serve the citizen and offer a significant social good, who live closely and every day the citizens’ agonies, the sorrow and the poverty that are dealing with as a result of the current policies of selling out and collapse, we decline to accept the finite of the political notes of the coincidently Rulers, who want to impoverish our lives.

**We fight to maintain the right to the goods called labor, which is attacked by the political choices that present it as an obstacle to progress, to social and political evolution.**

We don’t feel guilty that we are working. Guilty are the speculators who profited behind the back of the people. Those who transferred their super profits to the offshore companies and the sanctuary of Swiss banking maze, so as to return them to Greece and baptize them investment funds when everything will collapse.



It is our decision to fight to defend the institutional and the role of the Post and the Postmen in the society.

We, as workers, understand the difficulties from the economic situation that we confront and stand by the colleagues of other organizations. We defend the social good called post as well as the right to everyone to have a cheap and quality postal service in the whole territory.

The workers in the Hellenic Post achieved, all those years, under difficult circumstances, to prevent the plans of privatization of the Organism, to maintain him upright with all of their forces and to cancel the attempted policies of shrinkage and depreciation.

Upon demands and struggles, we secured the viability, growth and profitability of the Hellenic Post, although systematically the Hellenic Post was devalued by the last Governments and the appointed Administrations of the Organism, whose decisions, idleness and shilly-shally drove the organization into the slackness of the quality service towards the citizens.

The increased trust of the citizens towards the Postman and the Post fills us with strength and stubbornness so as to be able to hold up and standing this Social good, the Post.

Nowadays that the country is under an economical paralysis, that there is a deconstruction of social, labor and insurance rights, that the deep crisis leads to the decomposition of the society and its structures, we need, more than ever, the country's wealth, the Organizations of public interest in order to rely and get out of the crisis.



***Dear colleagues,***

***Our fight for the rescue and viability of the Post has already begun.***

**We struggle so as not to mortgage the labor, economic and social future of all workers in the Hellenic Post.**

For the coming period, there are many fronts to controvert. Besides the Post's selling out, we also have the Government's intentions to new wages reductions, as well as the attempted targeting of our indemnification of dismissal and more.

We watch without panic and analyze carefully all the developments and facts. Our actions for such significant matters that concern our future and the society as a whole, have to be synchronized, to come of serious analysis and not done for sensationalism and temporarily trade union benefits.

He are obliged however to remain united and show our maximum potential and fighting spirit, saying NO and finally overturn in practice the policies and the deeper content of the memoranda.

**We request dialogue with the Government for the development and not the selling out of the Post.**

At the same time, we are sending a message to the Government, its Ministers and the Parties that support it, that their attempt to dispose the Post will fail and their goals, their commitments and their plans will be revealed.

**The Hellenic Post has a past, present and future.**

**WE WILL NOT GIVE IT AWAY  
TO ANYONE**



On behalf of the Panhellenic Federation of Postal Associations

The President  
GEORGE VASILOPOULOS

The Secretary General  
ILIAS BAKELLAS