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منظمة  
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

**Sixteenth Session**

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

**Written reports from international organizations - UPU Postal Security  
Group (PSG) Update**

**Agenda item 16.2**

**Prepared by UPU Postal Security Group (PSG) Secretariat**

**English only**



## **I. Introduction**

1 The Universal Postal Union (UPU) Department of Postal Operations (DOP) Supply Chain (SC) Team wish to share with the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) information on the activities conducted by the SC team throughout the previous Istanbul Congress Cycle stemming from 2016-2021 relative to the mitigation of illicit goods and towards improving the interoperability of postal network infrastructure through fostering collaboration with a variety of external stakeholders and relevant bodies. We request the CPM to review the activities conducted during the previous Congress Cycle and consider ways in which the CPM and the UPU may engage more with each other throughout the upcoming Abidjan Congress Cycle of 2022-2025.

## **II. Background**

2 Established in 1874, the Universal Postal Union (UPU)<sup>1</sup>, with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization worldwide. With its 192 member countries, the UPU is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. The organization fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role, and provides technical assistance where needed. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve quality of service for customers

## **III. Summary of Relative Activities**

3 The UPU participates in external workshops hosted by external stakeholders as a subject matter expert for the postal supply chain to ensure an understanding of the current challenges and obstacles faced by the members. The UPU participated in the Third meeting of the Working Group to develop the IPPC e-Commerce Guide for plants, plant products and other regulated articles on 14 April 2021 to provide background information on the UPU as well as potential avenues of collaboration. The UPU provided resources relative to the Cooperating with Customs which has been included on the IPPC website.

4 The group contributed significantly to the development of an awareness raising campaign on New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) in the postal supply chain and the role of the UPU to protect this transport modality through the online safety toolkit developed in cooperation with the United Nations office on Drug Control (UNODC). The Secretariat continues to provide support to the "Ask the Expert" section of the toolkit through virtual training sessions and the provision of electronic responses to online queries received through the toolkit.

5 The PSG facilitated the implementation and renewal of Cooperation Agreements with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) for United for Wildlife (UFW), and re-initiated the longstanding MOU with INTERPOL. An MOU with Europol is currently being explored to determine the benefits to both organizations.

6 The PSG conducted joint capacity building activities with WCO and INCB to build regional training expertise in the security standards S58 and S59 as well as increase recognition and mitigation of dangerous substances in the supply chain, such as New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). Five regional workshops were organized which provided training for 80 countries and 160 security experts. The objective of identifying and training postal security representatives in the region creating a local security support base and regional security review auditor pool has been realized in the Caribbean and Latin American regions while the Asia Pacific region is on track to achieve this goal within the next twelve months.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union>

7 The PSG shared best practices in use within several Posts to support revenue protection. The PSG also developed relationships with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) groups to provide support and educational materials to members in the IPR and Counterfeit goods mitigation sector in an effort to prevent the induction of these items into the supply chain. The PSG organized a joint PSG Scam Mail Expert Team (SMET) and International Mass Marketing Fraud working group (IMMFWG) meeting in Bern to bring together DPO's and law enforcement officials to identify challenges in cooperation to eliminate these fraudulent items from the supply chain. The group also leveraged the renewed collaboration with INTERPOL to spearhead an International IP Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC) virtual learning pilot with the Asia Pacific Region where forty-two postal security officers were training in IPR identification and mitigation techniques through an exclusive online training. Evaluation of the successes of the pilot are ongoing with a plan to engage additional regions based on the final analysis of the joint PSG-TRACIT IP survey which was conducted with designated operators, the results of which will be presented at the first PSG meeting of the Abidjan Congress Cycle.

8 The PSG participates in various working groups organized by ICAO including the Aviation Security Group, Joint Working Group on Air Cargo Security (JWGACS) and the Air Cargo Collaboration group created to specifically address concerns and challenges related to the ongoing pandemic in order to exchange ideas and ensure a common understanding among group members of best practices.

9 An expert team was created with representatives of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and the UPU to develop joint mail safety guidelines in order to enhance and provide focus for the safety of the supply chain and to provide guidance on the optimal safe handling of postal items in the supply chain. The guide is currently available on the UPU website.

10 The PSG created and monitors a SharePoint for members and postal security representatives to communicate best practices and challenges in an easy to use and accessible forum.

11 The PSG, in conjunction with the Customs Group and the Postal Technology Center (PTC) developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI) detection tool for prohibited goods which was utilized as a prototype to further scope an all-inclusive detection platform which is being developed with support from the US Tied Funds with the PTC, with an expected completion date of the end of 2022.