



Press Release

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Postal rates for 2010 approved

Kurth: „Inland letter postage rates will remain stable“

The inland letter postage rates of Deutsche Post AG (DP AG) will not change next year. As part of its price cap procedure the Federal Network Agency approved DP AG's rates for letter items weighing up to 1,000 grams today. DP AG's application had not envisaged an increase in the postage for inland letter mail. For international mail some rate increases were applied for in connection with certain rarely used products.

„The inland letter postage rates will continue to remain stable in 2010. This means that the prices have remained unchanged in the past twelve years. In 2003 the rate for a standard letter was actually lowered by one cent and that for postcards even by six cents. But consumers will have to get used to the fact that they will have to pay more for certain international mail items in 2010“, explained Matthias Kurth, President of the Federal Network Agency, on the occasion of the decision's announcement in Bonn.

DP AG has refrained from fully exploiting its freedom for manoeuvre regarding rate increases and has merely applied for a higher rate for certain international mail items by up to about half of the increase possible. The Federal Network Agency has sanctioned DP AG's request.

The price cap formula was redefined in 2007 and will apply until the end of 2011. The formula specifies that DP AG's rate of productivity growth must increase annually by 1.8 per cent. The preceding year's inflation rate as determined by the Federal Statistics Office is set against the rate of productivity growth. This may then result in price adaptations.

The Federal Network Agency's consent does not cover the rates for conveyance services paid for minimum mailing requirements of 50 letter items. Since the abolition of DP AG's exclusive licence on 1 January 2008, the rates payable for these conveyance services, which are mainly used by business customers, no longer require ex ante approval. However, they are subject to ex post control of abusive practices by the Federal Network Agency.

This approval remains valid until 31 December 2010.