



COSIPLAN
Presidencia Pro Tempore
Chile 2013 - 2014

Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Trade Integration through Postal Services

September 27, 2013

Santiago, Chile

NOTES OF THE MEETING

On September 27, 2013, the city of Santiago de Chile hosted the Meeting of the Executive Technical Group on Trade Integration through Postal Services. The meeting was attended by delegates of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela as well as representatives of the Postal Union of the Americas, Spain and Portugal (UPAEP), UNASUR General Secretariat, consultants, and IIRSA Technical Coordination Committee. The meeting agenda and the list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

The objectives of the GTE meeting were the following: i) report the progress of the Work Plan 2013 in relation to the Trade Integration through Postal Services project; (ii) present the results of the Exports through Postal Services project in the COSIPLAN-IIRSA member countries that have implemented it¹ and promote the exchange of experiences with the service; (iii) present the "Study to Survey the Best Practices for Simplifying the Customs Import Formalities for Postal Consignments" in South America, and analyze the proposal of a simplified model, including its regulatory, operational, economic and institutional feasibility; and (iv) agree on the Work Plan for the Trade Integration through Postal Services project.

After the opening of the working session by the Presidency Pro Tempore (PPT) held by Chile, the Technical Coordination Committee presented the backgrounds of the Trade Integration through Postal Services project within the COSIPLAN/IIRSA framework and stated the objectives and expected results of the meeting. The presentation of the objectives and expected results of the meeting is attached as Annex 3.

Afterwards, Rose Mary Antunes from the Brazilian Ministry of Communications walked the audience through the activities included in the Work Plan 2013 in relation to this project and their progress status. Ms. Antunes made reference to the actions undertaken jointly with the Universal Postal Union (UPU)

¹ Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay

concerning a recently created group called "Business Development of Micro- and Small-Sized Enterprises," the activities of which are of interest to the Trade Integration through Postal Services project and which is presided over by Brazil. This presentation is attached as Annex 4.

The representative of the UNASUR General Secretariat stressed how important this project is for the integration process as well as the direct impact it bears on social actors in general, but particularly on small and medium-sized enterprises. Furthermore, he pointed to the fact that at this stage it might be useful to establish formal links, within the scope of UNASUR, with other inter-governmental agencies specialized in the topics discussed at the regional level. In this regard, he suggested that the participating States should adopt a common position in international forums, in accordance with UNASUR General Regulations and political guidelines for third-party relations.

After that, the countries that have already implemented the Exports through Postal Services project (Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay and Brazil) presented the progress made, the obstacles identified and the results achieved so far. Such presentations, attached as Annexes 5 to 9, were followed by a round of questions and comments. Based on the results described, the delegations ratified the importance of this project as a government tool to socially and economically include small- and medium-sized enterprises, to create an exports culture, and to facilitate their access to the international market. It was also clear for all that this country project involves a series of institutions and that the key to its success lies in the coordination and synergy that can be achieved at the inter-institutional level. Emphasis was also placed on the benefits of sharing the experience gathered and the lessons drawn at the Executive Technical Group, as this contributes to the improvement of the services rendered in each country and to creating a horizontal work and cooperation network.

The Chilean delegate congratulated the countries that have this project already in place for the results attained and expressed his country's interest in continuing to learn from such experiences with a view to implementing this project in Chile.

The Uruguayan delegation proposed defining and standardizing by consensus a set of key indicators related to the results of Exporta Fácil in each of the countries, so as to be able to present consistent information likely to be compared among the different national realities

In turn, the Paraguayan National Coordinator requested that a pre-diagnosis study be conducted in his country in order to implement the project next year.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing in Bolivia, through a communication sent to FONPLATA, expressed its interest in taking the actions required to implement the project. The note is attached as Annex 10.

Later on, consultant Marise Helena Louvison presented the "Study to Survey the Best Practices for Simplifying the Customs Import Formalities for Postal Consignments" in South America, included in the Work Plan for this year. Ms. Louvison presented a proposal for a simplified model of this project that could be used as a standard reference for the countries that might be willing to adapt it to their own realities. This presentation is attached as Annex 11. In addition to the comments made during the meeting, the participating delegations undertook to send to IIRSA CCT Secretariat their observations, if any, to the study by October 15, 2013. It was agreed that the final version of the study with all such comments taken into account would be sent back to the countries by October 31, 2013.

The presentation was followed by comments and analyses made by the participating delegates about the results derived from the study and the regulatory, operational, economic, and institutional feasibility of the proposed simplified model for import customs processes through postal services. From this exchange of ideas, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The study constitutes a valuable tool that enables the countries to have a guideline to map their own import processes through postal services and establish an action plan at the national level.
- The delegates agreed on a set of priority actions, selected from the context of the study, as well as a set of other activities that could serve as a basis to define future undertakings. The list of these actions is attached as Annex 12.
- Based on the actions defined and the guidelines proposed in the study, it was agreed that each country should prepare a national work plan including all the activities deemed a priority as well as any other activity deemed necessary to reflect local realities. National work plans are expected to include the actions toward the improvement of the Exporta Fácil service. These national plans should be sent to IIRSA CCT Secretariat not later than December 13, 2013.

In turn, UPAEP praised the initiative of the study conducted, the quality of the information collected, and put itself at the service of the countries to support and participate in the actions defined in the Work Plan.

Moreover, the PROMPERU representative put at the service of the countries the compilation made by the institution on postal procedures and requirements to export to USA and Australia. Such documents are attached as Annexes 13 and 14.

Finally, the delegates proposed and approved a work schedule for the last quarter of 2013 as well as the Work Plan for 2014, attached as Annex 15.

List of Annexes

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

Annex 2: List of Participating Delegations

Annex 3: Presentation of the Objectives and Results of the Meeting

Annex 4: Presentation on the progress status of the Work Plan 2013

Annex 5: Presentation on the Exports through Postal Services Project in Ecuador

Annex 6: Presentation on the Exports through Postal Services Project in Colombia

Annex 7: Presentation on the Exports through Postal Services Project in Peru

Annex 8: Presentation on the Exports through Postal Services Project in Uruguay

Annex 9: Presentation on the Exports through Postal Services Project in Brazil

Annex 10: Communication from the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing of Bolivia

Annex 11: Presentation on the Study to Survey the Best Practices for Simplifying the Customs Import

Formalities and the proposed simplified model

Annex 12: List of Priority Actions Selected from the Context of the Study

Annex 13: Postal Information Bulletin (USA)

Annex 14 Postal Information Bulletin (Australia)

Annex 15: Next Steps and Work Plan 2014