

Plenary Session 2 – Evolution of Postal Regulation & Postal Services

1) *Twenty-five years of the National Postal Regulators in the EU. A critical review - Chołodecki*

Comments

Very detailed analysis around the structure and functioning of EU postal regulation (empirical study)

Regulatory power/obligation of NRAs is essential to ensure and safeguard the USO but NRAs not responsible for ensuring competition in the postal market (EU PSD: focus solely on *social regulation*)

Need to have more information and transparency on NRAs budget dedicated to postal market regulatory responsibilities (data available only for CNMC in Spain)

Need for set of harmonized and unbiased principles at EU level for regulation of the postal sector still relevant

Only few NRAs have additional powers beyond ensuring USO (i.e. protection of competition/consumers)

Question:

- Why not focusing on improving regulatory effectiveness before broadening regulatory scope? Can effective regulation be achieved by maintaining current regulatory scope and only include minor revisions?

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2) Exploring the use of control theory to describe and assess the UK's postal regulatory framework, including lessons that can be learnt and applied from this tool for regulation – Thomas & Groves

Comments

Simplification allows a problem to be understood conceptually and facilitates to assess it analytically – *boiler example*

Strength of applying control theory to postal regulation is its use as a *design, diagnosis, and communication* tool to complement existing regulatory techniques

Model recognizes that when designing/reviewing a regulatory framework other control mechanisms need to be taken into account to avoid overregulation (*competition can be a better mechanism for delivering better consumer outcomes*)

Control theory is useful to regularly review performance of the regulatory framework to assess if it remains *fit for purpose*

Question:

- Relevant to assess if postal regulation is effective on its core aspect (ensure and safeguard universal service provision) before discussing a broadening of the regulatory scope. Can control theory serve this purpose?

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3) Slow transition to the private sector: The transformation of the Portuguese postal service in the rear-view mirror – Manica & Mendonça

Comments

Need for more in-depth analysis of material privatizations to learn explanatory factors that led to specific outcomes

Comparative-historical analysis as a reasonable choice due to limited cases to compare (small-N study) and need to observe processes over time

Full privatization of Portuguese USP (CTT) and complete loss of managerial control by the government in postal provision as unique case, which makes it difficult to compare it with other scenarios (e.g. Greece)

Question:

- What will be the long-term effects of such transformation in the Portuguese postal services environment?
Room to develop study comparing pre-privatization with post-privatization scenario?