



Media Release - 27 January 2005

ComReg holds first meeting of Expert Advisory Group for Postal Sector

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today held the first meeting of its Expert Advisory Group for the postal sector. The Group advises ComReg on its strategic approach to developments, innovation and regulation of the postal sector in Ireland. The four members of this group have extensive experience of postal issues and of advising Governments on key economic and regulatory issues.

The Group's advice to ComReg will focus particularly on strategic and development issues impacting on the postal sector both nationally and internationally.

It is ComReg's aim to ensure that Ireland has a vibrant and competitive postal sector that will attract business investment, support innovation, benefit consumers and assist in contributing to Ireland's overall competitiveness. In seeking to achieve these objectives, the Expert Advisory Group will enhance ComReg's knowledge and expertise as it deals with the challenges facing this sector.

The Expert Advisory Group will meet ComReg on a quarterly basis. The members of the Group are:

- **Mr Jerry Cope**, is a former Managing Director of the British postal operator Royal Mail and Group Managing Director Strategy and Business Development. He is currently Chairman of the Governors of Kingston University.
- **Mr Peter Donnelly** is a Managing Director of National Pen Limited, based in Dundalk. The company's business is dependent on high quality postal services for both Direct Mail Marketing and Order Fulfilment. The business despatches approximately 8 million pieces of mail a year.

• **Professor Dermot McAleese** is Professor Emeritus, Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin. He is a former Director of the Central Bank. Professor McAleese has also been President of the Irish Economic Association and Chairman of the Economic and Social Research Institute.

• **Mr Paul Waterschoot** is a former Director of the Internal Market DG at the European Commission. In this role he was one of the main architects of the European Postal Directives that have led to significant improvements in postal services in many European countries.

Commenting on the establishment of the Expert Advisory Group, Ms Isolde Goggin, the Chairperson of ComReg said: “The postal sector has a key role to play in supporting Ireland’s economic development and it’s imperative that ComReg is fully informed about the challenges and developments facing this dynamic and rapidly evolving sector.”

Ms Goggin added: “It is particularly gratifying that people of such international stature and experience have agreed to join us and we believe that their input will contribute to ComReg’s aim of ensuring that its strategic decision-making is both well-informed and forward- looking.”

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Issued By

Tom Butler

Public Affairs Manager, ComReg

Ph: 01 804 9639 Mobile: 087 2536358

tom.butler@comreg.ie