



POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Robert G. Taub  
Acting Chairman

August 12, 2016

The Honorable Bathsheba N. Crocker  
Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary ~~Crocker~~:

*BATHSHEBA,*

Due to the unfortunate security and political situation in Turkey, I understand that an extraordinary meeting of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) Council of Administration (CA) will take place on August 29, 2016, in Bern, Switzerland, to review the situation and decide on whether to change the venue and dates for the upcoming UPU Congress. In light of the convening of this extraordinary CA session, the recent report by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security advising against holding the Congress in Istanbul, and concerns raised by several UPU members about the safety of delegates, it appears likely that the UPU Congress will not be held in Istanbul, and that the dates of the Congress will be postponed.

Given the likely delay in the start of the Congress, which is currently planned for September 19, 2016, and provided that it is postponed, the Commission will provide the Department of State with its views under 39 U.S.C. § 407(c)(1) by September 21, 2016. If the Congress is postponed to November or later, we will work with the Department of State on a more appropriate date to transmit the view closer to the actual start of the Congress. However, should there be a decision at the extraordinary CA session on August 29, 2016, to move forward with the Congress in Istanbul as planned, or to convene the Congress elsewhere before October 21, 2016, the Commission will provide the Department of State with its views as soon as possible.

The Commission is respectful of the Department of State's need for sufficient time to analyze the Commission's views prior to Congress. Please be assured that the Commission intends to give the Department of State ample time to analyze the Commission's views in advance of the Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Robert G. Taub  
Acting Chairman

*THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR UNDERSTANDING.*

cc: Nerissa Cook  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of International Organization Affairs  
Greg Thome  
Director  
Office of Global Systems

Joe Murphy  
Chief, Postal Policy Unit  
Office of Global Systems