



POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Robert G. Taub  
Acting Chairman

August 22, 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:

I am writing in response to the August 19 letter from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Tracey Ann Jacobson that I received earlier today. She asked that I reconsider the change to the date on which the Postal Regulatory Commission would provide its views to the Secretary as required by law in advance of the upcoming Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). I read her letter with great interest and well understand her concerns.

As outlined in my letter to you of August 12, the Commission is respectful of the Department of State's need for sufficient time to analyze the Commission's views prior to the UPU Congress convening. Again, 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 UPU Congress. My correspondence of August 12 was precipitated by a major development which occurred earlier this month that did not exist when we agreed in April to transmit the Commission's views a month in advance of the UPU Congress – the call for an extraordinary meeting of the UPU Council of Administration for August 29 in Switzerland to review the unfortunate security situation in Turkey and decide on whether to change the venue and dates for the upcoming UPU Congress. In light of the convening of this extraordinary session, the recent report by the United Nations Department of Safety and Security advising against holding the UPU Congress in Istanbul, and concerns raised by several UPU members about the safety of delegates, it appears quite possible that the UPU Congress may not be held in Istanbul, and that the dates of the UPU Congress could be postponed.

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Jacobson's letter requested that the Commission provide the views by this Friday, August 26, under the possibility that the date of the UPU Congress would remain unchanged. For the most efficient and effective use of Commission resources, it would be prudent to wait one more business day to understand what the final decision will be on the UPU Congress's dates. If the decision is to move forward with the UPU Congress as originally scheduled from September 20 – October 7, I am committed to transmitting the Commission's views to the Department of State by the end of August. This would still ensure the Department of State receives the Commission's views three weeks before the UPU Congress begins, and well in advance of the Commission's transmission of its views to the Secretary before the last UPU Congress in 2012.

If, however, the decision at this extraordinary session – just one week from today – is to delay the start of the UPU Congress, the Commission will work with the Department of State on a more appropriate date, which will reflect the Department of State's desire to receive the Commission's views one month before the UPU Congress. Given that the UPU International Bureau is continuing to publish proposals for the 2016 UPU Congress on its website, this additional time for transmission of the Commission's views would also ensure that any new proposals required to be evaluated by the Commission are included.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert G. Taub', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Taub  
Acting Chairman