

Press release

## UNIVERSAL POSTAL SERVICE

### Arcep sets the multiannual price caps for universal postal service products in 2024-2025

Paris, 20 June 2023

At the outcome of the work performed in the first half of the year, and the public consultation held from 27 April to 25 May 2023<sup>1</sup>, Arcep has adopted its Decision on the multiannual price caps for the universal postal service for 2024-2025. This mechanism succeeds the price caps in force from 2019 to 2022<sup>2</sup> and the Arcep Opinion<sup>3</sup> on changes to La Poste prices in 2023.

This Decision sets the nominal<sup>4</sup> average annual increase for universal postal services at 17% for the period running from 2024 to 2025, and sets the nominal annual price increase for this period at 10%.

It is up to La Poste to decide on how its prices will change, within the parameters of this price cap. Arcep, which issues a public opinion<sup>5</sup> on the price of each universal service product, can deliver a targeted assessment.

In light of the universal service account deficit, the decrease in postal volumes and rising overhead costs, the mechanism provides a pricing trajectory framework for the universal service in such a way as not to increase its deficit (post compensation) compared to 2021.

As a reminder, starting in 2021 the State began offsetting universal service losses, provided that La Poste control its overhead cost increases by improving productivity. The multiannual price caps translate a sharing of the burden between the company and consumers, while also factoring in the State's contributions.

Given the instability of the economic situation, the price caps mechanism includes a clause that allows for a review of the mechanism should there be a significant change in the circumstances used to set the price cap.

#### **Associated documents:**

- [Decision No. 2023-1298 of 15 June 2023 on the characteristics of the multiannual price cap for universal service products for 2024-2025](#)
- [Stakeholders' contributions to the public consultation held from 27 April to 25 May 2023](#)

#### **Arcep at a glance**

The Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications, Postal Affairs and Print Media Distribution (Arcep), a neutral and expert arbitrator with the status of independent administrative authority (IAA), is the architect and guardian of internet, fixed and mobile telecoms and postal networks in France.

<sup>1</sup> [Public consultation – Characteristics of the multiannual price cap for universal service products for 2024-2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Set by Decision No. 2017-1252 of 26 October 2017](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Opinion No. 2022-1457 of 24 June 2022](#)

<sup>4</sup> i.e. current prices

<sup>5</sup> *In accordance with Para. 3 of Article L.5-2 of the French Postal and Electronic Communications Code (CPCE): “[Arcep] will be informed by La Poste of universal postal service prices, before they come into effect. Arcep will issue a public notice within a month of having been informed of these prices”.*