

Postal Diary

1 January – 30 September 2013

by Joseph Fenech

2 January 2013

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, no collection or delivery of mail was to be effected, and all post offices were to remain closed for business, on Wednesday, 2 January 2013. Normal service was to resume on Thursday, 3 January 2013.

10 January

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Alessio’s Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il-Parrocċa, Mqabba MQB 1511, was closed for business between the 10 and 17 January 2013, both days included.

10 January

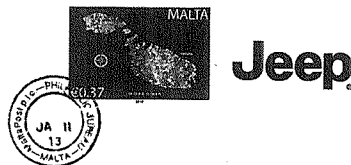
MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, was to open between 8.00am and 4.00pm, on Thursday, 10 January 2013.

10 January

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 2.00pm, on Thursday, 10 January 2013.

11 January

To celebrate the first year of the brand Jeep in Malta, U.C.I.M. Co. Ltd, in collaboration with MaltaPost, launched a limited edition Personalised Cover featuring the four Jeep models available in Malta, namely the Jeep Wrangler, the Jeep Wrangler Unlimited, the Jeep Compass and the Jeep Grand Cherokee, as well as a personalised stamp showing the brand name “Jeep” printed in green on a white background. The stamp was cancelled with a MaltaPost plc Philatelic Bureau – Malta metal hand date-stamp dated 11 January 2013. The Personalised Covers were issued for sale from the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa, and from the Castille Square, Valletta and Victoria, Gozo outlets.



Proceeds from the sale of these Covers were donated to the Dar tal-Providenza Home for Disabled Persons.

11 January

In a Company Announcement issued by MaltaPost plc on the 11 January 2013 pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company held on Thursday, 10 January 2013, had approved all the five ordinary resolutions, as well as one extraordinary resolution, on the agenda. The first ordinary resolution was for the AGM to receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and consider the Report of the Directors and of the Auditors, for the year ended 30 September 2012. The second resolution was for the AGM to declare a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, representing a final net payment of €1,307,544, either in cash or by the issue of new shares at the option of each individual shareholder. The third resolution was for the AGM to re-appoint as auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers, and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration. The fourth resolution was for the AGM to appoint Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company. The fifth ordinary resolution was for the AGM to establish at €30,000 the maximum annual aggregate Directors' remuneration for the holding of their office. The extraordinary resolution – special business was for the AGM to amend the Memorandum of Association of the Company to enable it to enter into the insurance market and to create the necessary structures to carry on this activity as explained in the circular to shareholders.

Following this Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors of MaltaPost plc was made up of Mr Joseph Said (as Chairman), Mr Julius Bozzino, Mr David Stellini, Mr Philip Tabone and Mr Aurelio Theuma. A number of interesting facts emerge from the MaltaPost plc Annual Report for 2012. At the end of the financial year 2012, the MaltaPost workforce stood at 619 employees, including staff working on both a full as well as part-time basis. During the year in question, MaltaPost purchased a property in Sliema and identified a property in St. Paul's Bay; both these sites were to be used as Post Offices in due course. The Post Office in Żebbuġ (Malta) was rebuilt and reopened to the public in May 2012. The upgrade and refurbishment of the Post Office network was continued in Balzan, Nadur and Għarb, and the extension of the Parcel Office at the Company's Head Office in Marsa was inaugurated in April 2012. The issued and fully paid up share capital at the end of the financial year was made up of 32,688,600 ordinary shares of €0.25 each, all of which carried the same voting rights. Equity attributable to shareholders at 30 September 2012 stood at €15.6 million. The number of shareholders of the Company as at 30 November 2012 totalled 2,223. Redbox Limited, a subsidiary

of Lombard Bank Malta plc, held 67.7% of the share capital of the Company as at that date. At year-end, there were 33 Post Offices (28 in Malta and 5 in Gozo), 30 Sub-Post Offices (26 in Malta and 4 in Gozo), as well as 1 Mobile Post Office and 1 Vintage Mobile Post Office.

11 January

On the 11 January 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued an update of its Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 (doc. MCA/13/O/1461). This document represents a rolling update of the MCA's strategic direction for the period 2013 – 2015; it validates established strategic direction and factors in any new developments that are seen to have a significant impact during the plan period. In the Postal Services sector, the MCA's strategic objectives were three, namely: (P1) regulating a liberalised postal services environment that ensures ease of entry to new undertakings and sustainable competition; (P2) ensuring that postal undertakings provide a transparent, value-for-money service to users whilst adhering to incumbent social obligations; and (P3) contributing to the development and implementation of postal regulatory policy at an international level.

16 January

In a Company Announcement issued by MaltaPost plc on the 16 January 2013 pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost announced that an agreement had been entered into with Middlesea Insurance plc whereby a subsidiary of MaltaPost plc was to be appointed as agent of Middlesea Insurance plc. This agreement was subject to regulatory approval/s as required in terms of law.

18 January

On the 18 January 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published its Annual Plan 2013 (doc. MCA/13/O/1465). The Plan focused on the priority work-streams and related individual tasks that the MCA intended to undertake during 2013. In the postal services sector, the MCA's work was directed towards its three strategic objectives in this area (as already outlined in connection with the MCA Strategic Plan 2013 – 2015 update).

18 January

Legal Notice 29 of 2013 – Postal Services Act (CAP. 254) – MaltaPost plc Licence (Modification) (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 19,020 dated 18 January 2013. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-articles (1) and (2) of article 80 and by article 81 of the Postal Services Act, the then Minister for Infrastructure,

Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Communications Authority, brought into force (back-dated from the 19 November 2012), various changes in the MaltaPost plc Universal Service Product Price List as outlined in the Appendix of the Schedule to the principal regulations.

24 January

The Sub-Post Office at Misto Stationery, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara, was closed for business between the 24 and 29 January 2013, both days included.

28 January

The Sub-Post Office at 'Midas', 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Monday, 28 January 2013.

30 January

MaltaPost plc announced that the €0.20 stamp from the Definitive Issue – Additional Values, had been reprinted. This third reprint of the €0.20 stamp consisted of 1,200,000 stamps. These stamps were available in sheets of 10 stamps each, with the said sheets bearing numbers 338,001 to 458,000, both numbers included. The stamps measure 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0, and were offset printed by Printex Limited on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper. This reprinted stamp was issued for sale as from Wednesday, 30 January 2013. The first reprint, involving sheets with numbers 58,001 to 238,000, had been issued on 3 May 2012, while the second reprint, involving sheets with numbers 238,001 to 338,000, was issued on 2 August 2012.



31 January

In a press release issued on the 31 January 2013, MaltaPost plc announced that the stamp set 'Malta Buses – End of an Era', which had been issued on 2 July 2011, was one of the five postage stamp sets that won the "Best Theme Award" at the 11th China Annual Best Foreign Stamp Poll held in Beijing, China, on the 23 November 2012. The stamp poll was limited to stamps issued in 2011. Postal authorities from 38 countries participated in this poll by submitting stamp sets and souvenir sheets, while more than 33,000 philatelists took part in the actual poll.

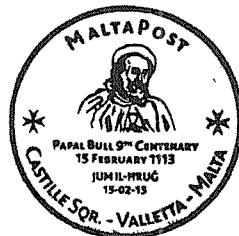
4 February

In a press release issued on the 4 February 2013, MaltaPost plc notified that the Mobile Post Office would be stationed in Ta' l-Ibraġ Road (near the Parish Church),

Swieqi, every Friday, between 7.30am and 10.00am, to provide postal services as well as bill payment services.

15 February

On Friday, 15 February 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a stamp within a miniature sheet to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the Papal Bull – ‘*Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*’ – of 15 February 1113, written by Pope Paschal II to Blessed Gerard, founder and superior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (now the Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta). The Papal Bull officially recognised the monastic community of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem and gave it its sovereign and independent status. The stamp, bearing a face value of €2.47, portrays a detail from a painting by the French artist and Knight of Malta, Antoine Favray, depicting Blessed Gerard receiving a deed of donation from Godfrey de Bouillon, first ruler of the Kingdom of Jerusalem. The actual painting is exhibited at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. The Papal Bull is preserved in the National Library of Malta. 25,000 individually numbered miniature sheets were printed. The stamp in the sheet is 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb), while the miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. The sheets, which were designed by Edward D. Pirotta, were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 1/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/PAPAL BULL 9TH CENTENARY/15 FEBRUARY 1113/JUM IL-ĦRUG/15-02-13”, and also featured an image of Blessed Gerard in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 306.



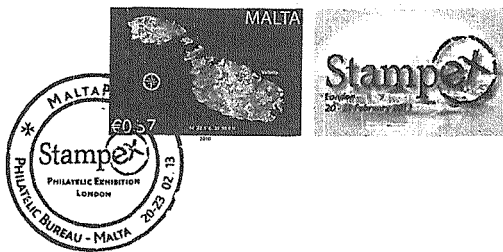
19 February

On the 19 February 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost declared that during the financial period commencing on 1 October 2012 up to the date of the announcement, no material events and/or transactions had taken place that would have an impact on the financial position of the Company such that they would require specific mention, disclosure or announcement pursuant to the applicable Listing Rules other than that announced on the 9 November 2012. MaltaPost plc also stated that overall profitability for the period under review had improved over that registered in the corresponding period the previous year. The Company had also submitted its application to the

Malta Financial Services Authority so as to act as agent of Middlesea Insurance plc.

20 February

To mark its participation in the Stampex Fair 2013, held in London between the 20 and 23 February 2013, MaltaPost plc issued an Occasion Card, a personalised stamp, as well as a personalised cover bearing this same personalised stamp. The Occasion Card, No. 31 in the series,



depicts the fishing port of Marsaxlokk, and includes an imprinted image of the €2.07 stamp forming part of the ‘Fishing Villages’ miniature sheet from the joint issue with Iceland Post of 15 September 2011. This imprinted stamp was cancelled with a special hand postmark inscribed “MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA – 20-23.02.13” in the outer ring, and “Stampex/PHILATELIC EXHIBITION/LONDON” in the centre. The individually numbered Occasion Card was put up for sale in mint and cancelled versions as from Wednesday, 20 February 2013. On the other hand, the personalised cover and stamps were issued for sale as from Tuesday, 27 February 2013. The personalised cover, marked “MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 1/2013”, included the personalised stamp issued for the occasion, cancelled with the above-mentioned special hand postmark.

23 February

On the occasion of the official opening of “Il-Ħaġar – Heart of Gozo”, a historical, fine arts and interactive museum and cultural centre in St. George’s Square, Victoria, Gozo, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 23 February 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 23-02-13” in the outer ring, and “INAWGURAZZJONI IL-ĦAĠAR/HEART OF GOZO” in the inner ring, which also included the emblem of the museum.



This postmark was designed by Gozitan philatelist Anthony Grech.

23 February

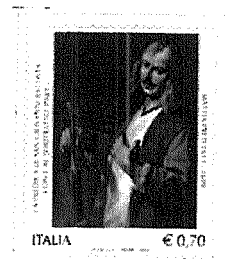
On Saturday, 23 February 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a set of two stamps within a miniature sheet to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Mattia Preti, an Italian baroque artist who settled in Malta in the seventeenth century. The stamp with a denomination of €0.97 reproduces the painting by Mattia Preti showing “The Baptism of Christ”. The actual painting is found at the National Museum of Fine

Arts in Valletta. The €1.87 stamp is a self-portrait of Mattia Preti. This self-portrait is in fact a detail from a larger painting. In this larger work of art, the artist portrays himself in the lower right-hand corner, wearing the red tabard of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem with the white cross prominently displayed; he stands in the presence of a majestic vision of St. John the Baptist resting in the shade of a large tree. The actual painting is currently housed at the Museo Civico di Taverna in Calabria, Italy; Taverna happens to be Preti's birthplace. The miniature sheet itself portrays the image of an angel looking upwards, a picture crafted by Preti using sanguine (red chalk) on paper. The original drawing of this "Reclining Figure of an Angel" is to be found within the Reserve Collection of the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. 25,000 individually numbered miniature sheets were printed. The miniature sheet was designed by Edward D. Pirotta. The €0.97 stamp is 35mm x 35mm in size, while the €1.87 stamp is 44.0mm x 31.0mm in size, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb); the miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm. The miniature sheet was offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE/ BIRTH OF MATTIA PRETI/24 FEBRUARY 1613/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/23-02-13", and also featured an outline image of Mattia Preti in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 307.



To mark this same anniversary, the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau also launched a Commemorative Folder (marked Commemorative Folder No. 7), which includes an individually numbered miniature sheet, a short message by the then Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi, as well as brief write-ups about Mattia Preti himself, and about the paintings shown on the stamps and the miniature sheet. MaltaPost issued 3,000 copies of the Commemorative Folder, each individually numbered (and bearing the same number as the miniature sheet found inside). It is worth noting that the hand-stamp shown on the stamp bulletin and also on the Commemorative Folder is slightly different from that actually used in MaltaPost outlets on the first day of issue of the miniature sheet.

Together with the miniature sheet and the Commemorative Folder, MaltaPost also issued a Limited Edition Silver Replica Stamp depicting Mattia Preti's self-portrait (reproduction of the €1.87 stamp). This Silver Replica Stamp is struck in



999.0 Silver. 2,000 Silver Replica Stamps were issued. Each is individually numbered and presented in an elegant presentation box with Certificate of Authenticity.



Even though there was no official announcement of a joint issue between the Maltese and Italian postal authorities, on the same date, the Italian post office also issued a stamp to commemorate the 4th centenary of Mattia Preti's birth. This €0.70 stamp, from the series "Italian Artistic and Cultural Heritage", also depicts the same self-portrait of Mattia Preti shown on the Malta €1.87 stamp.

26 February

Legal Notice 73 of 2013 – Postal Services Act (CAP. 254) – Post Office Leases Order, 2013 – was published as a supplement to Government Gazette No. 19,037 dated 26 February 2013. Through this Legal Notice, in exercise of the powers conferred by article 15 of the Postal Services Act, the then Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications notified that the title of lease of the premises listed in the First Schedule, which had been vested in MaltaPost plc as from the 1 May 1998, shall remain so vested in the Company until the 31 May 2016, or for such time as the said Company holds a licence to provide postal services, whichever is the shorter. The premises included in the First Schedule are:

Hamrun Post Office, 18, Triq il-Ferrovija, Hamrun;

Balzan Post Office, 153, Triq il-Kbira, Balzan.

Besides, the title of lease of the premises listed in the Second Schedule, which had been vested in MaltaPost plc as from the 1 May 1998, shall remain so vested in the Company until the 31 May 2018, or for such time as the said Company holds a licence to provide postal services, whichever is the shorter. The premises included in the Second Schedule are:

Sliema Post Office, 118, Triq Manwel Dimech, Sliema;

Victoria Post Office, 127/129, Triq ir-Repubblika, Victoria, Gozo;

Żejtun Post Office, 37, Triq San Luċjan, Żejtun;

MIA Post Office, Departures Hall, Malta International Airport;

Qormi Post Office, 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Qormi;

San Ġwann Post Office, 95, Triq in-Naxxar, San Ġwann;

St. Paul's Bay Post Office, 467, Triq il-Kbira, St. Paul's Bay;

Gżira Post Office, 21, Pjazza Meme` Scicluna, Gżira;

Żurrieq Post Office, 8, Triq Santa Katerina, Żurrieq.

The transfer of all the titles of lease referred to above could be extended for further periods up to the 31 May 2028.

The premises listed in the Third Schedule, which had been leased to MaltaPost plc as from the 1 May 1998, shall remain so leased to the Company for such time as the said Company holds a licence to provide postal services. The premises included in the Third Schedule are:

Birkirkara Post Office, 58/59, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara;

Birżebbuġia Post Office, 48, Triq Żaren Dalli, Birżebbuġia;

Cospicua Post Office, Block No. 14, Flat 2, Fuq San Pawl, Cospicua;

Għajnsielem Post Office, Triq J. F. De Chambray, Għajnsielem, Gozo;

Għarb Post Office, Triq il-Vizitazzjoni, Għarb, Gozo;

Mosta Post Office, Civic Centre, Triq il-Kostituzzjoni, Mosta;

Nadur Post Office, 13, Triq it-Tramuntana, Nadur, Gozo;

Naxxar Post Office, Civic Centre, Vjal il-Wieħed u Għoxrin ta' Settembru, Naxxar;

Paola Post Office, Civic Centre, Pjazza Antoine De Paule, Paola;

Pieta` Post Office, Telgħet Guardamangia, Pieta`;

Rabat Post Office, Civic Centre, Triq Santa Rita, Rabat;

Valletta Post Office, 1, Dar l-Annona, Misraħ Kastilja, Valletta;

Valletta Post Office, 75, Triq l-Ifran, Valletta;

Victoria (Gozo) Garage, Ministry responsible for Gozo, Pjazza San Frangisk, Victoria, Gozo;

Xagħra Post Office, 132, Triq it-Tigrija, Xagħra, Gozo;

Żabbar Post Office, Civic Centre, Triq il-Kunvent, Żabbar;

Żebbuġ Post Office, Triq Antonio Sciortino, Żebbuġ;

South Hub – Żejtun, 31/33, Triq id-Duluri, Żejtun.

The Post Office Transfer of Leases Order, 1998 was thereby revoked.

28 February

A new MaltaPost Branch Post Office opened for business on Thursday, 28 February 2013, at 39, “Sant’ Antnin”, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Sliema. This Branch Post Office was allocated MaltaPost Identification Code R34. A metal hand date-stamp inscribed with the words “MALTAPOST – Sir Adrian Dingli Str. – Sliema” started to be used at this Post Office. No official



press release whatsoever was issued by MaltaPost plc to announce the opening of this Branch Post Office.

28 February

On Thursday, 28 February 2013, the then Prime Minister, Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, inaugurated the extension of MaltaPost plc’s headquarters in Qormi. During the same occasion, the MaltaPost Chairman, Mr Joseph Said, announced that MaltaPost was investing in a €3 million document management facility in Gozo (referred to as the Tanseana project), as the Company moves away from its core traditional business of delivering letters. The Company had bought a factory in Xewkija’s industrial estate which was to be transformed into a new facility handling document management, archiving and hybrid mail.

4 March

On the 4 March 2013, the Malta Communications Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Postal Services Act, granted a new licence to MaltaPost plc. The new licence replaced the licence that MaltaPost had till then (as provided for in the Schedule to the MaltaPost plc Licence (Modification) Regulations), which was to expire on the 30 April 2013. The new licence issued to MaltaPost plc was to come into effect as of the 1 May 2013, and it authorised MaltaPost plc to provide all postal services within the scope of the universal service as well as outside the scope of the universal service, for an indefinite period and subject to the terms and conditions stated in the Licence.

11 March

The Sub-Post Office at Tunny Net Souvenir Shop, Triq il-Marfa, Mellieħa MLH 9063 re-opened for business as from Monday, 11 March 2013.

11 March

The Sub-Post Office at Misto Stationery, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara, was closed for business on Monday, 11 March 2013.

11 March

The Sub-Post Office at 'Aquavel', Triq San Bartilmew, Għargħur GħR 1014, was closed for business on Monday, 11 March 2013.

14 March

On the 14 March 2013, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 052/2013 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the last quarter (October – December) of 2012. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic exceeded 11.2 million items, decreasing by 3.5% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2011. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 25,962, an increase of 1.2% when compared to the same quarter of 2011 (25,659 parcels/other items sent then).

18 March

The Sub-Post Office at Misto Stationery, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara, was closed for business on Monday, 18 March 2013.

18 March

On the 18 March 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the 'MCA End-User Half Yearly Report – July – December 2012' (doc. MCA/R/13-1529). This report provided an analysis of the complaints and enquiries received by the MCA in the second half of 2012 and also focused on enforcement actions and related monitoring activities undertaken by the MCA during this period. The MCA considered that the publication of this information raised awareness on consumer tools and rights in the sectors regulated by the MCA while also highlighting those practices which were creating difficulties for end-users and which were to be closely monitored by the MCA. With specific reference to the postal sector, the main type of complaints received by the MCA in the second half of 2012 related to the delivery of cross-border ordinary mail. The MCA also received claims regarding non-delivery of registered mail by MaltaPost. Other claims received related to the delivery of unaddressed postal articles.

27 March

On Wednesday, 27 March 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a set of three stamps titled "Treasures of Malta Series – Fountains". The €0.06 stamp in this set depicts the Vilhena Fountain (found in Floriana), the €0.32 stamp shows the Triton Fountain (also found in Floriana), while the €2.62 stamp depicts the Spinola Fountain (found in Valletta). 100,000 copies of the €0.06 stamp were printed, together with 200,000 copies of the €0.32 stamp and 30,000 copies of the €2.62 stamp. The stamps were designed by artist Cedric Galea Pirootta. The size of the stamps is 44.0mm x

31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of 10. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 3/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/TREASURES OF MALTA SERIES/'FOUNTAINS'/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/27-03-13”, and also included an image of the Triton Fountain featured in the €0.32 stamp, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 308.



30 March

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr Ċensu Tabone, former President of Malta, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 30 March 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 30-03-13” in the outer ring, and “100 SENA MIT-TWELID TA’ĊENSU TABONE/1913 – 2013” in the inner ring, which also included an image of Dr Ċensu Tabone in the centre. Dr Tabone was born in Victoria, Gozo. This postmark was designed by Justin Falzon.

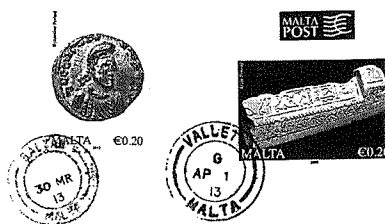


30 March

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġoġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024, was closed for business between the 30 March and 8 April 2013, both days included.

1 April

New postage rates were introduced by MaltaPost plc with effect from Monday, 1 April 2013. For letters weighing up to 50 grams, the new postage rate became €0.26. For letters weighing above 50 grams and up to 100 grams, the new postage rate became €0.32. For letters weighing above 100 grams and up to 2 kg, the new postage rate became €0.32 with an additional €0.20 for every 50 grams.



1 April

The Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc, Triq Paceville, St. Julian’s, was closed for business on Monday, 1 April 2013. On that day, an alternative service

was provided by MaltaPost plc through the Mobile Post Office which was stationed in the same street for the day.

9 April

In Government Notice No. 275 appearing in the Government Gazette No. 19,070 of 9 April 2013, the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) made reference to Government Notice No. 829 in Government Gazette No. 18,125 of 10 September 2007, and declared that it was excluding from the list of scheduled property, in terms of Article 81 of the Environment and Development Planning Act, the Letter Box in Triq l-Ghassara tal-Gheneb, Floriana (demolished). This had originally been scheduled as Grade 2. On the 11 November 2010, the Prime Minister had endorsed the removal of this property from the list of scheduled property. MEPA would exercise its powers of enforcement, as set out in Articles 81 and 86 to 90 of the Act, in the case of any contravention to the provisions of the Environment and Development Planning Act as regards to Scheduled Property.

11 April

On the 11 April 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the “Communications Market Review – July to December 2012” (doc. MCA/R/13-1548). The purpose of this report was to inform the general public on the main trends and developments in Malta for electronic communications and post, with specific reference to the second half of the year 2012. The postal sector reported lower activity levels in the second half of 2012, compared to the second half of 2011. Postal activity in the universal service area was down by 4.2%, with volumes falling from 21.6 million mail items to 20.7 million items. Lower activity in the universal service area was mainly attributed to a significant drop in outbound cross-border mail volumes, down by 22.6%, and a fall of 2.7% in domestic postal mail volumes. Inbound cross-border mail volumes were only up by 0.8% and not sufficient to counter the afore-mentioned declines. Postal activity in the competitive area was also down by 0.9%, with mail volumes falling to 0.3 million items. The latter figure corresponds to 1.3% of all postal mail volumes handled in the second half of 2012. Lower activity in the competitive area was attributable to lower outbound cross-border mail volumes, down by 4.3%, which outweighed a slight increase in domestic mail volumes. No change was reported for inbound cross-border mail volumes. Malta’s nominal stamp prices in 2012, for domestic standard letters and letter mail within Europe, were the lowest in the EU.

12 April

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Marsa Parish Church (dedicated to the Holy Trinity), a special hand postmark was used on

Friday, 12 April 2013, at the Marsa Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – MARSÀ – MALTA – 12-04-13” in the outer ring, and “TRINITA` QADDISA/100 SENA PARROĊĊA/1913-2013” in the inner ring, which also included an image of the centenary logo in the centre.

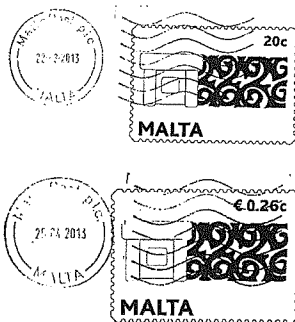


15 April

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Branch Post Office at Old Bakery Street, Valletta, was to have revised opening hours as from Monday, 15 April 2013. From that date onwards, the Branch was to open between 8.15am and 1.30pm from Monday to Friday, and between 7.45am and 1.00pm on Saturdays.

15 April

Two new varieties (Standard and Window formats) of the MaltaPost Postage Paid envelopes were issued by MaltaPost plc on Monday, 15 April 2013. The only change from the previous issue of these envelopes only related to the value on the imprinted stamp, which was changed from 20c to €0.26c. No formal announcement regarding the launching of these new varieties of Postage Paid envelopes, was made by MaltaPost plc.



17 April

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Alessio’s Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511, was closed for business on the 17 and 18 April 2013.

29 April

On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Leone Philharmonic Society of Victoria, Gozo, a special hand postmark was used on Monday, 29 April 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 29-04-13” in the outer ring, and “150 SENA MIT-TWAQQIF TAS-SOĊ. FILAR. LEONE – GHAWDEX - 1863 – 2013” in the inner ring, which also included the Leone Philharmonic Society’s emblem in the centre. This postmark was designed by George Vella.

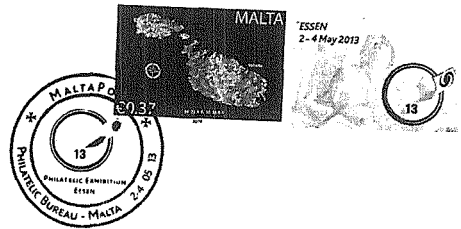


1 May

On the 1 May 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost plc informed that, in line with the decision of 1 November 2012 entitled “Regulating the Postal Sector in a fully liberalised market – an authorisation regime for a fully liberalised market – response to consultation document and next steps”, the Malta Communications Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the Postal Services Act (CAP. 254), granted a new licence to MaltaPost plc for the provision of Postal Services within the scope of the Universal Services. The new licence was effective as from the 1 May 2013 for an indefinite period subsequent to the termination of the licence as provided for under the provisions of MaltaPost plc Licence Regulations (SL 254.14 of the Laws of Malta).

2 May

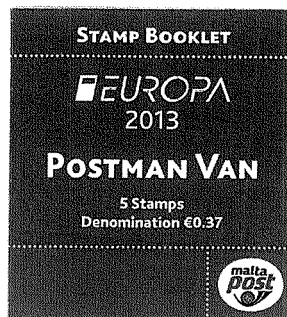
On the occasion of its participation in the Essen Stamp Fair 2013 held in Essen, Germany, between the 2 and 4 May 2013, MaltaPost plc issued an Occasion Card, a Personalised Cover, as well as a Personalised Stamp commemorating the event. A special hand postmark was also used. The Occasion Card, No. 32 in the series, depicts the drawing of “The Reclining Figure of an Angel” by Mattia Preti, with the imprinted €0.97 stamp showing “The Baptism of Christ” from the Mattia Preti miniature sheet which had been issued by MaltaPost on 23 February 2013. The Occasion Card, each individually numbered, also included the logo of the Essen 2013 Stamp Fair. The Card was available for sale in mint or cancelled condition, as from Thursday, 2 May 2013, at all Post Offices. The Personalised Cover, marked ‘MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 2/2013’ on the reverse side, included a personalised stamp depicting “The Reclining Figure of an Angel” by Mattia Preti, together with the Essen Fair logo. This personalised stamp was cancelled with the special cancellation hand postmark used by MaltaPost on this occasion. The said postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU – MALTA – 2-4.05.13” in the outer ring, and “PHILATELIC EXHIBITION/ESSEN” in the inner ring, which also included the logo of the Essen Fair in the centre. The Personalised Stamp/Cover and Personalised Stamps were available for sale from the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau as from Monday, 6 May 2013.



9 May

On Thursday, 9 May 2013, MaltaPost plc issued the EUROPA stamp set for 2013. This set of two stamps was themed “Postman Van”, in line with the EUROPA 2013 theme and PostEurop’s Stamp Design competition, with each of the two stamps depicting Malta’s iconic postal vans placed against a local setting. This theme was chosen by PostEurop in view of the fact that PostEurop was celebrating the 20th anniversary since it took over the management of EUROPA matters from the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administration (CEPT)

in 1993. The €0.37 stamp shows the Ford Transit Mark 1 Van as it made its way up Merchants Street, Valletta, in front of the former General Post Office, that was then housed in the Auberge d’Italie. The €1.19 stamp depicts the Lambretta three-wheeler as it drove down Dingli Street in Sliema. The €0.37 stamp was Malta’s entry for the Best EUROPA Stamp Competition organised by PostEurop. The stamps in this set, which were designed by Cedric Galea Pirota, each measure 40mm x 38mm, with a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and were issued in sheetlets of 10 stamps each. The top two left hand spaces in each of the sheetlets of both stamp values were taken up by Cinderella labels. The corner label in each case bore the MaltaPost logo set against a grey background, while the other label in each case reproduced a photograph. In the case of the €0.37 stamps sheetlet, the photograph showed the Ford Transit Mark 1 Van parked in front of a ship, the Malta Express, a ferry owned by the Tirrenia Shipping Line, which used to service a route between Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta; in the case of the €1.19 stamps sheetlet, the photograph depicted two Lambretta three-wheelers.



200,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp and 30,000 copies of the €1.19 stamp, were printed. Stamp booklets containing five €0.37 stamps from this EUROPA set, were also issued on the same occasion. The inside of the front cover of this booklet included an image of the special commemorative hand-stamp used to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue of this set. The first day cover issued by MaltaPost on this occasion was marked FDC No. 4/2013.



The special commemorative hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- MALTA/EUROPA 2013/”POSTMAN VAN”/JUM IL-ĦRUG/09-05-13”, and also featured an outline of the Lambretta three-wheeler shown on the €1.19 stamp, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 309. The text in the said stamp bulletin included errors in the fifth and sixth paragraphs; to rectify the matter, MaltaPost issued an Errata Corrige, in the form of a small note with the amended text, loosely inserted in the actual stamp bulletin.

9 May

On the 9 May 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost notified that at a meeting of the MaltaPost Board of Directors held on the 9 May 2013, the Board approved the Unaudited Condensed Interim Financial Statements for the six month period ended 31 March 2013. Overall economic conditions remained subdued during the six months under review. Nonetheless, results of the Company indicated an improvement in performance over the corresponding period the previous year. For the six months ended 31 March 2013, MaltaPost registered an increase in profit before tax of 27.5% to €1.0 million, compared to €0.8 million for the corresponding period the previous year. Turnover increased by 2.5% to €11.3 million. Traditional mail volumes registered a marginal decrease. The decline in volumes was partly mitigated by the review in tariffs of certain services effective mid-November 2012. Expenses increased marginally by 1.4% to €10.4 million. Net finance income increased to €125,000. Cost-to-Income Ratio stood at 87.6%. Shareholders’ funds increased by 2.9% to €16.0 million. The highly competitive market called for the Company to expand and diversify its portfolio of services. The introduction of ‘SendOn’ proved a success, and was expected to be followed by other enhanced services complementing the growing e-commerce market. The Company was also entering the insurance sector once the necessary regulatory approvals were issued. The Company was also in the process of finalising the necessary investment for the expansion of services in connection with document management and hybrid mail.

10 May

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Friday, 10 May 2013.

20 May

On Monday, 20 May 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a set of three stamps to commemorate European Maritime Day 2013, on the occasion of Malta hosting the 6th edition of the European Maritime Day Conference (held on the 21-22 May

2013). The three stamps depict cruise liners that had visited the Valletta Cruise Port in previous years. The €0.26 stamp shows the Riviera, a cruise liner operated by Oceana Cruises, the €0.51 stamp depicts the Costa Deliziosa, operated by Costa Crociere, while the €0.97 stamp shows the MS Ryndam, which is operated by the Holland America Line. 25,000 copies of each stamp were printed. The stamps were designed in-house by MaltaPost. The size of the stamps is 44mm x 31mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of 10. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 5/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY/2013/JUN IL-HRUĠ/20-05-13”, and also included an outline image of the Riviera cruise liner shown on the €0.26 stamp, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 310.



25 May

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, was closed for business on Saturday, 25 May 2013.

31 May

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Friday, 31 May 2013.

17 June

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 17 June and 30 September 2013, the St. Julian’s Post Office situated within Lombard Bank plc in Triq Paceville, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 1.00pm.

17 June

MaltaPost plc informed that between the 17 June and 30 September 2013, the Post Office outlet situated within the University of Malta, Msida, was to open from Monday to Friday, between 8.00am and 11.30am.

18 June

In a press release issued on the 18 June 2013, MaltaPost plc stated that, as part of its commitment to provide reliable and convenient postal services, it had increased its postal vehicle fleet. This fleet now included nine Euro V Fiat Doblo vans, eight

Euro V Ford Transit Connect vans and three large tail lifts, apart from the two Mobile Post Offices. This fleet was leased from Burmarrad Commercials, and all vehicles were rebranded with MaltaPost's new livery. MaltaPost's efforts in favour of a clean and sustainable environment led it to invest in eco-friendly vehicles, with the aim of reducing the Company's carbon footprint; this was also targeted through the introduction of hybrid vehicles in the Company's fleet.

18 June

On the 18 June 2013, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 117/2013 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the first quarter (January – March) of 2013. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic advanced by 5% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2012, thereby surpassing the 10.8 million items. Total parcels and other items were recorded at 27,623, an increase of 29.5% when compared to the same quarter of 2012 (21,326 parcels/other items sent then).

20 June

On Thursday, 20 June 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a set of two stamps depicting wild and domestic fauna of the Maltese Islands. The €0.37 stamp illustrates the wild rabbit, with the Santa Marija tower of Comino in the background (this wild rabbit is still found in the Maltese countryside, particularly on the island of Comino). The €2.25 stamp shows the Maltese ox, with a typical old Maltese farm in the background. 400,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp, as well as 20,000 copies of the €2.25 stamp, were printed. The stamps were designed by artist Cedric Galea Pirotta. The size of the stamps is 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of 10. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 6/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed "MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/WILD & DOMESTIC/FAUNA OF THE/MALTESE ISLANDS/JUM IL-HRUĠ/20-06-13", and also included an outline image of the rabbit featured on the €0.37 stamp, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 311.

The €0.37 stamp from this set bears the official logo of SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation) in the top right hand corner of the stamp, and was to form part of the SEPAC joint issue folder.



The theme for the 2013 SEPAC collection was ‘Animals’. Apart from MaltaPost, the SEPAC members include Aland Post, Faroe Islands Post, Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, Post Greenland, Guernsey Post, Iceland Post, Isle of Man Post, Jersey Post, Liechtenstein Post Corporation, Luxembourg Post, Monaco Post, San Marino Post and Vatican Post.

21 June

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Friday, 21 June 2013.

26 June

MaltaPost plc notified that due to the Isle of MTV concert being held in Floriana on Wednesday, 26 June 2013, the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L252) at Triq San Publiju, Floriana, would not be accessible. Therefore, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, collection from this letterbox was to be effected at 3.00pm instead of the customary 7.00pm, on that day.

1 July

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Circolo Gozitano, a special hand postmark was used on Monday, 1 July 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 01-07-13” in the outer ring, and “100 SENAMIT-TWAQQIF TAĊ-CIRCOLO GOZITANO – GHAWDEX - 1913 – 2013” in the inner ring, which also included the logo of the said Circolo Gozitano in the centre. This postmark was designed by George Vella.



8 July

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Marcham Stationery’, 4, Wesgħa Bir id-Deheb, Ghaxaq GXQ 1651, was closed for business between the 8 and 10 July 2013, both days included.

9 July

On the 9 July 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) presented a Consultation Document (doc. MCA/C/13-1624) – ‘Market Review for the Postal Sector: Letter Mail Markets – Identification and Analysis of Markets, Determination of Market Power and Setting of Remedies’. The Postal Regulatory Framework and the Postal Services (General) Regulations require the MCA to define the boundaries of the relevant postal services markets appropriate to national circumstances. The MCA in fact identified the following postal services markets: Market 1 (Domestic

Single Piece Letter Mail Market); Market 2 (Outbound Single Piece Letter Mail Market); Market 3 (Domestic Registered Letter Mail Market); Market 4 (Outbound Registered Letter Mail Market); Market 5 (Domestic Bulk Letter Mail Market); Market 6 (Outbound Bulk Letter Mail Market); Market 7 (Domestic Parcel Post Market); and Market 8 (Outbound Parcel Post Market). The MCA then analysed these markets to assess whether any operator had significant market power (SMP) as defined in, and required by, Regulation 64 of the Postal Services Regulations. Following its analysis, the MCA concluded that MaltaPost had significant market power in all the letter mail markets identified in this review. In view of this, the MCA was imposing the following remedies: (1) obligation to provide services at cost-oriented prices; (2) obligation of non-discrimination; (3) obligation of provision of services on an unbundled basis; (4) approval and publication of tariffs; and (5) accounting separation. The consultation period was to run from the 9 July to the 13 September 2013.

11 July

MaltaPost plc informed that the letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L266) situated in Triq il-Merkanti, Valletta, which had been temporarily inaccessible due to construction works, was again back in service.

11 July

In a press release issued on the 11 July 2013, MaltaPost plc notified that a new public letterbox (with MaltaPost Identification Code L053) was installed in Triq is-Silla, Marsaskala. The last collection time at this letterbox was to be after 7.00pm on weekdays, and after 3.00pm on Saturdays.

13 July

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Victoria Scout Group, a special hand postmark was used on Saturday, 13 July 2013, at the MaltaPost Victoria, Gozo Post Office. The postmark was inscribed “MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO – MALTA – 13-07-13” in the outer ring, and “50TH ANNIVERSARY/VICTORIA/SCOUT GROUP” in the inner ring, which also included the logo of The Scout Association of Malta, in the centre. This postmark was designed by Cedric Galea Pirota.



20 July

The Sub-Post Office at Misto Stationery, Pjazza l-Eroj, Swatar, Birkirkara, was closed for business between the 20 and 27 July 2013, both days included.

23 July

According to information provided by the Malta Communications Authority, Premiere Post Ltd was issued with an updated postal services licence with effect from the 23 July 2013.

2 August

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the last collection of mail from all letterboxes was to be effected at 2.00pm, on Friday, 2 August 2013.

6 August

Through Government Notice No. 717 appearing in Government Gazette No. 19,120 dated 6 August 2013, it was notified that the Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business had approved, in May 2013, that the Stamp Design Advisory Board be constituted as follows: Chairman – Dr Pascal Demajo; Members – Ms Greta Apap Bologna, Mr Joseph Said, Mr Roger Strickland, Ms Martina Zammit and Mr Kenneth Zammit Tabona; and Secretary – Ms Mary Grace Simpson. The appointments were valid up to the 30 April 2015.

9 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Friday, 9 August 2013.

12 August

The Sub-Post Office at 51, Triq Ġorġ Borg Olivier, Mellieħa MLH 1024, was closed for business between the 12 and 17 August 2013, both days included.

13 August

In a press release issued on the 13 August 2013, MaltaPost plc encouraged the general public to take part in the Best EUROPA Stamp Competition organised by PostEurop, and to vote for the Maltese entry. This was the €0.37 stamp from the EUROPA 2013 stamp set – Postman Van – issued on the 9 May 2013, showing the Ford Transit Mark 1 Van. Online voting was open until the 31 August 2013.

14 August

MaltaPost plc notified that, in agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, mail from the letterboxes listed below was to be collected at 4.00pm on Wednesday, 14 August 2013, due to the activities related to the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady held in several localities around Malta:

Attard -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L409 – Triq il-Kbira;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L420 – Triq il-Belt Valletta.

Ghaxaq -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L130 – Triq San Filippu;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L131 – Vjal il-Labour.

Gudja -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L115 – Triq Raymond Caruana;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L141 – Triq il-Kbira.

Mosta -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L376 – Triq il-Kostituzzjoni;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L391 – Triq il-Kbira;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L392 – Triq il-Katakombi tal-Bistra, corner with Triq Rużar Briffa.

Mqabba -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L39 – Triq il-Parroċċa;
- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L40 – Triq il-Konvoj ta’ Santa Marija.

Qrendi -

- letterbox with MaltaPost Identification Code L32 – Triq Rokku Buhagiar.

14 August

On the 14 August 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a Company Announcement pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules. Through this announcement, MaltaPost plc declared that during the period commencing on 1 April 2013 up to the date of the announcement, no material events and/or transactions had taken place that would have an impact on the financial performance of the Company, such that would require specific mention, disclosure or announcement pursuant to the applicable Listing Rules. Growth in turnover during the period was partly offset by decreases in revenue from cross-border mail brought by a change in the Universal Postal Union (UPU) fee structure. Operating expenses increased mainly as a result of a higher labour cost and direct operational charges while other overheads were contained.

16 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Fleet Stationery’, Triq Testaferrata, Ta’ Xbiex XBX 1402, was closed for business on the 16 and 17 August 2013.

16 August

The Sub-Post Office at C@C Stationery, Trejjet Fleur-de-Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580, was closed for business on the 16 and 17 August 2013.

16 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘MC Stationery’, 33, Triq Ġlormu Cassar, Mosta MST 4117, was closed for business between the 16 and 18 August 2013, both days included.

16 August

The Sub-Post Office at 6, ‘Welcome Bazaar’, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081, was closed for business between the 16 and 23 August 2013, both days included.

20 August

On Tuesday, 20 August 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a miniature sheet in a joint issue with Nieuwe Post n.v. of Curaçao, featuring “Harbours” as a common theme between the two Islands. The Grand Harbour is depicted on the Malta miniature sheet, while the Schottegat Harbour is shown on the Curaçao one. The Malta miniature sheet includes a stamp bearing a denomination of €4.51. 20,000 individually numbered miniature sheets were printed. The miniature sheet measures 120mm x 80mm, while the stamp measures 41mm x 30.5mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The miniature sheet, which was designed by artist Cedric Galea Pirota, was offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the miniature sheet on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 7/2013). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - -----
-- - MALTA/MALTA – CURAÇAO/JOINT ISSUE 2013/“HARBOURS”/JUM IL-ĦRUGĠ/20-08-13”, and also featured the outline of part of the Grand Harbour, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured this miniature sheet in the stamp bulletin No. 312.



The Curaçao – Malta miniature sheet was available for purchase from the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau. This sheet carried a stamp with a denomination of 1000c. The miniature sheet measures 100mm x 70mm, while the stamp measures 36mm x 26mm. The miniature sheet was offset printed (on unmarked paper) by Printex

Limited. The sheet was designed by Maltese artist Cedric Galea Pirota, based on a photograph by Bea Moedt.

21 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Louis Stationery’, 49, Pjazza San Nikola, Siggiewi SĠW 1070, was closed for business between the 21 and 30 August 2013, both days included.

21 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Alessio’s Old Cottage’, 12, Triq il-Parroċċa, Mqabba MQB 1511, was closed for business between the 21 and 29 August 2013, both days included.

27 August

On Tuesday, 27 August 2013, MaltaPost plc issued a set of six stamps featuring various buses which used to operate throughout the years, in the Maltese Islands. The stamps depict the first buses to have operated in Malta and Gozo, as well as those that were used by the British Services and the British European Airways (BEA) and British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC). This set was a continuation of the series ‘Malta Buses – The End of an Era’. The stamps in this set are based on reproductions of original artworks by Maltese artist Cedric Galea Pirota. The €0.06 stamp depicts the “Airport Bus”, the €0.10 stamp shows the bus that ran the “Valletta – St. Julian’s Route”, the €0.37 stamp features the bus that operated the “Victoria Hire Service” (and believed to be the first bus to have operated in Gozo), the €0.52 stamp depicts the “Royal Armed Forces Bus”, the €1.16 stamp shows the “Malta Police Bus”, while the €2.25 stamp features the “Magirus – Deutz O3500”. 500,000 copies of the €0.06 stamp, 100,000 copies of the €0.10 stamp, 300,000 copies of the €0.37 stamp, and 30,000 copies each of the €0.52, €1.16 and the €2.25 stamps, were printed. The size of the stamps is 44.0mm x 31.0mm, with a perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 (comb). The stamps were offset printed on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper by Printex Limited, and are available in sheets of 10. MaltaPost plc prepared a special commemorative hand-stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 8/2013 – set of 2 envelopes, marked respectively 1 of 2 and 2 of 2). The hand-stamp was inscribed “MALTAPOST - ----- - MALTA/MALTA BUSES/”THE END OF AN ERA/SERIES II”/JUM IL-ĦRUG/27-08-13”, and also included an outline image of the front of a bus, in the centre. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in the stamp bulletin No. 313.



27 August

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business between the 27 and 29 August 2013, both days included.

29 August

On the 29 August 2013, the National Statistics Office (NSO) released the Transport Statistics 2013, covering the data period January – December 2012. This annual publication comprises statistical information on air, sea and road transport in Malta - in this case in respect of reference year 2012. It also includes an additional section focusing on transport accounts. According to this publication, during 2012, a total of 1,383,011 kg of mail was processed by the Malta International Airport, an increase of 2.6% over 2011 (when 1,348,314 kg of mail were processed). In 2012, the mail processed in the first quarter of the year amounted to 335,570 kg, that processed in the second quarter amounted to 340,110 kg, that processed in the third quarter amounted to 319,124 kg, while that processed in the last quarter of the year amounted to 388,207 kg.

7 September

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, was closed for business on Saturday, 7 September 2013.

9 September

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Paul’s Arcade’, Triq il-Kahli, San Pawl il-Baħar SPB 3015, was closed for business between the 9 and 16 September 2013, both days included.

10 September

On the 10 September 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a Consultation Document (doc. MCA/C/13 – 1691) on the “Review of Quality of Service Requirements and Targets to be achieved by MaltaPost for the Universal Service”. The purpose of the document was to determine the Quality of Service (QoS) measurements and related performance targets to be achieved by MaltaPost for the universal service covering the period October 2013 – September 2016. In addition to the setting of the revised QoS targets, this document also updated the information and reporting requirements with respect to performance monitoring and complaints handling. Initially, this consultation was to run from the 10 September to the 8 October 2013; however, following a request from an interested party, the MCA granted an extension to the deadline for the submission of responses, up till the 31 October 2013.

11 September

On the 11 September 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) published the “Consumer Bi-Annual Report – January – June 2013” (doc. MCA/R/13 – 1694). One of the main objectives of the MCA is to ensure a high level of protection for end-users in the electronic communications, postal and e-commerce sectors. In the first half of 2013, the MCA received a total of 143 complaints and 146 enquiries in all. This report provided an analysis of these complaints and enquiries and also provided information on enforcement actions and related monitoring activities undertaken by the MCA during this period. With specific reference to the postal sector, the MCA regulates this sector and ensures that postal services are available throughout the Maltese Islands. The MCA handles complaints related to postal services and seeks to provide redress when end-users encounter any difficulties. In April 2013, the price of local mail items weighing 50 grams or less increased from €0.20c to €0.26c (taxes included). This resulted in greater demand for €0.06c stamps (or denominations amounting to €0.06c). Following claims received by the MCA regarding the shortage of such stamps from MaltaPost’s branches, the MCA conducted mystery shopping exercises to ensure that such stamps were available and required MaltaPost to immediately address any shortcomings. End-users requesting significant supplies of these stamps were encouraged to contact MaltaPost before visiting any of its branches. Furthermore, those encountering any difficulties were asked to contact the MCA after having filed their claim with MaltaPost directly. Other claims received related to re-direction of mail and delivery of regular and registered mail. The MCA ensured that MaltaPost provided the necessary redress to end-users where appropriate.

13 September

On the 13 September 2013, the National Statistics Office issued News Release 175/2013 highlighting the post and telecommunications statistics for the second quarter (April – June) of 2013. According to these statistics, in the quarter under review, total postal traffic went down by 2.1% when compared to the corresponding quarter in 2012 (reaching around 9.9 million items). Total parcels and other items were recorded at 24,994, an increase of 13.9% when compared to the same quarter of 2012 (21,951 parcels/other items sent then).

16 September

On the 16 September 2013, the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) issued a Consultation Document (doc. MCA/C/13 – 1704) on “A Postal Authorisation Fee Structure for a fully liberalised market environment”. In this Consultation Document, the MCA proposed to revise the current authorisation fee structure, as outlined below. Postal operators licensed to provide postal services within the

scope of the universal service would be required to pay, on an annual basis, 1.5% of the total gross revenue from postal services within the scope of the universal service, or €5,000, whichever is the higher. Postal operators authorised by way of a general authorisation to provide only postal services which are outside the scope of the universal service would be required to continue to pay, on an annual basis, €150, provided that a postal operator whose annual gross revenue does not exceed €24,300 would be exempt from the payment of such a fee. The MCA proposed that the authorisation fee structure would come into effect as from the 1 January 2014. Initially, this consultation was to run from the 16 September to the 14 October 2013; however, following a request from an interested party, the MCA granted an extension to the deadline for the submission of responses, up till the 21 October 2013.

20 September

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Aquavel’, Triq San Bartilmew, Gharghur GHR 1014, was closed for business on Friday, 20 September 2013.

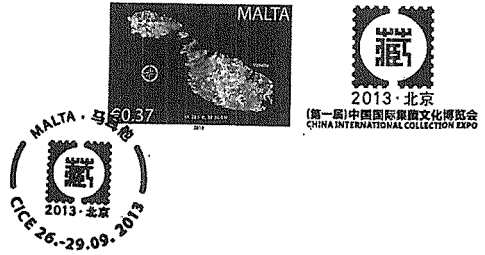
24 September

On the 24 September 2013, MaltaPost plc issued for sale the folder “Beautiful Corners of Europe 4”, which was launched by SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperation). This is the fourth folder issued by SEPAC, and includes stamps and images from 12 European states (out of the 14 states which are members of the SEPAC group), namely Aland, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Greenland, Guernsey, Iceland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta and Monaco. The theme for this issue was ‘Animals’. The Malta stamp included in this folder was the €0.37 stamp depicting the wild rabbit, from the set ‘Wild and Domestic Fauna of the Maltese Islands’ issued on the 20 June 2013. The folder, marked “Folder no. 4”, was printed by DAVO Publications, of Deventer (NL).

26 September

The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau was represented by one of its international agents, Nordfirm, at China’s largest Philatelic Exhibition, the China International Collection Expo, which was held in Beijing from the 26 to the 29 September 2013. To mark this event, MaltaPost issued an Occasion Card, a personalised stamp, as well as a personalised cover bearing this same personalised stamp. The Occasion Card, No. 33 in the series, depicts the European Ratsnake – Elaphe Situla, and includes the official logo of the China International Collection Expo 2013. The Card also has an imprinted image of the €0.37 stamp showing the map of the Maltese Islands, from the 2010 Occasions Set. This imprinted stamp was cancelled with the special hand postmark prepared specifically for this event; the postmark was inscribed “MALTA – CICE 26.-29.09.2013”, apart from text in the Chinese language, and

also included the official logo of the expo in the centre. The individually numbered Occasion Card was put up for sale, in mint and cancelled versions, from all post offices, as from Thursday, 26 September 2013. The personalised cover and personalised stamp could also be purchased as from the same date, but only from the MaltaPost



Philatelic Bureau. The personalised cover, marked “MaltaPost – Personalised Stamp/Cover No. 3/2013”, included the personalised stamp issued for the occasion, cancelled with the above-mentioned special hand postmark. The personalised stamp depicts the official logo of the China International Collection Expo 2013.

26 September

The Sub-Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala MSK 2113, was closed for business on Thursday, 26 September 2013.

Awarded Silver Thailand 2013

