

APPU Congress 2021

Update on timing

(Document prepared by APPU Bureau)

1. Subject	References/paragraphs
Informing the EC of a possible change to the timing for the next APPU Congress (originally scheduled for September 2021 in Thailand) – the timing change arising from uncertainty on when the 27 th UPU Congress will now be held.	§ 1
2. Decisions expected	
The EC is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - note the background to the issue and the possible need to change the APPU Congress timing - note the two timing options and the likelihood of each - note that if Option 2 is confirmed then there will be a need to hold an APPU EC meeting in 2021 - agree that it will be sensible planning to have a contingency plan for a 2021 EC meeting if the APPU Congress cannot be held in 2021 - agree that the Bureau should seek offers from members to host a 2021 EC meeting as a contingency measure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> § 1 § 2.1 Table § 3.2 § 4.1 § 4.1

Preamble to EC 2020 Doc 18

The Bureau wishes to inform the EC that the information in Doc 18 has been discussed with Thailand, the host of the 2021 APPU Congress, on a number of occasions. Thailand has kindly agreed for the document to be presented at the 2020 EC meeting. The Bureau expresses its appreciation to Thailand for facilitating the discussion of this matter.

1. Background

1.1 The 2017 APPU Congress accepted the offer of Thailand to host the next APPU Congress scheduled for 2021. (The timing for an APPU Congress is linked to the timing for a UPU Congress i.e., APPU General Regulations, Article 105, § 1 states “The representatives of the member-countries of the Union meet in Congress not later than two years after holding of each Universal Postal Congress ...”).

1.2 COVID-19 has disrupted the timing for the 27th UPU Congress. It was originally scheduled to take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 10 to 28 August 2020. However, because of the pandemic, the UPU and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire decided to postpone the Congress. New dates will be proposed once it is felt that the event can be held safely.

- 1.3 Because of the change to the UPU Congress timing, there is now an impact on the timing for the APPU Congress. This document looks at possibilities and options for the timings of both Congresses, as well as the need for an APPU EC meeting in 2021 if there is no APPU Congress in that year.
- 1.4 For completeness of the background to this matter, there is a link between the work programmes of the UPU and the APPU (these work programmes being established at a UPU Congress). Hence, the timing relationship between the two events.

2. Possibilities and options for timings of UPU and APPU Congresses

- 2.1 The options are quite simple.

Option	UPU Congress Timing	APPU Congress Timing	Likelihood	Comment
1	2020	2021	≤ 25%	Status quo
2	2021	2022	≥ 75%	APPU will need to convene an EC meeting in 2021 if there is no APPU Congress (in 2021).

3. Implications of timings

- 3.1 Theoretically, Option 1 is possible. However, assuming a minimum lead-time of three months being necessary to arrange the UPU Congress, it is advisable to consider an alternative plan.
- 3.2 Option 2 is the more realistic timing to plan for. The main issue for the APPU is the need to hold an EC meeting in 2021 if the APPU Congress is postponed until 2022.

4. Planning for APPU EC meeting in 2021

- 4.1 Given the increasing uncertainty of an APPU Congress being held in 2021, the Bureau is of the view that a plan should be in place for an EC meeting in 2021. In this regard, the Bureau will seek offers to host a 2021 EC meeting from members. In so doing, the Bureau understands that it will be difficult for a member to commit to hosting a meeting because of the pandemic, particularly the mobility and budgetary situations in 2021. Nevertheless, a contingency plan is good business practice and the process should commence.
- 4.2 In the event that there are no offers to host a 2021 EC meeting, the Bureau is required to host the event in Thailand.