

FIBRE HORIZONS - A newsletter of the FTTH Council Europe

Vol. 7, Issue 1 - January 2016

FIBRE HORIZONS is a monthly newsletter published by the FTTH Council Europe and distributed to readers interested in fibre to the home networks and the activities of the Council.

Did you hear?



"A country that prefers to extract the last remnants of capacity out of copper networks rather than investing in a future-safe fibre-optic infrastructure is jeopardising its international competitiveness as a business and industry location."

- Hannes Ametsreiter, CEO, Vodafone Germany

In the Spotlight

Rewriting the telecom rules

The European Union's regulatory framework for electronic communications is a series of rules that apply throughout the EU Member States. These rules are designed to encourage competition, improve the functioning of the market and guarantee basic user rights. But as digital technologies continue to change at an ever-increasing pace, this framework is in need of an overhaul.

Since the last review in 2009, electronic communications networks and services have been undergoing significant structural changes characterised by a slow transition from copper to fibre, more complex competition with the convergence of fixed and mobile networks, and the emergence of heavyweight online players (so called OTTs) that challenge the role of traditional service providers. Simultaneously, end-user expectations and requirements have exploded.

The European Commission has now held a consultation about how to modernise the law to suit the new reality, while helping to achieve its overarching aim of creating a true single digital market in Europe. The emphasis is changing from simply promoting services competition to creating an environment that also encourages investment in new infrastructure. In parallel, the Commission has also consulted Europe's citizens on their anticipated broadband needs beyond 2020.

The FTTH Council Europe submitted its responses to these EU consultations. In short, the position of the FTTH Council Europe is pro-competition, but primarily pro-infrastructure competition. We believe that the regulatory model should express a strong preference for fibre. The evidence for this approach is strong: in countries where fibre has been identified as a target - such as Lithuania, Portugal, Spain and Sweden - they have achieved much higher penetration of FTTH networks and faster progress towards the Digital Agenda targets.

This does not mean we reject other technologies. On the contrary, we are in favour of technological neutrality, but insist upon a reasonable assessment of future digital needs. We see fibre as the element that underpins the telecoms network ecosystem while other technologies are complementary. Wireless is not a substitute but rather a complement and indeed a driver for fibre, because wireless broadband depends on the presence of fibre very deep in the network.

When the long-term view is taken, all indicators point to FTTH as being the most appropriate solution. With this in mind, we wish to see long-term investors in the sector, who are capable of taking the necessary perspective, and see structural separation as one possible enabler, at least in rural areas,

that could draw in more investment by separating investment in the long-term physical infrastructure assets from the short-term and rapidly evolving retail services market.

The public sector also has an important role to play. On the demand side of the equation, we see a need for public services to be developed with FTTH capability in mind. There is also a role for the public sector on the supply side - specifically, we see a need for public subsidy to bring advanced broadband services to rural areas in order to achieve equality of access for all Europe's citizens.

[View the EU consultations](#) (closed 7 December 2015) and the FTTH Council Europe's responses at:

[Response to public consultation on the needs for Internet speed and quality beyond 2020](#)

and

[Response to Public Consultation on the Telecom Framework](#)

FTTH Council Europe President meets with Luxembourg Prime Minister

On 23 November 2016 in Luxembourg City, FTTH Council Europe President Edgar Aker met with Luxembourg Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and Media Xavier Bettel. They discussed the roll-out of FTTH in Luxembourg's broadband market and exchanged views on the Digital Letzebuerg initiative presented by the government in October 2014. Edgar Aker also took this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister for his support and patronage of the FTTH Conference 2016 and the opening speech he will provide on 17 February, the first day of the conference.

[Read our detailed news flash \(PDF\) >](#)

[Read our interview with Prime Minister Bettel \(PDF\) >](#)

Ruud Hendriks to be Keynote Speaker of the FTTH Conference 2016

We are delighted to announce that Ruud Hendriks, one of the entrepreneurial icons of the Netherlands, will deliver a keynote presentation on Wednesday, 17 February 2016, at the FTTH Conference to be held in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg.

Ruud is a pioneer of commercial radio and television in the Netherlands. He initiated the first non-stop news-radio format of the country as well as other innovative TV formats. He also co-founded Startupbootcamp, Innoleaps and The Talent institute.

In his keynote speech, Ruud Hendriks will share his experience and vision and will particularly address the upcoming FTTH Conference's theme "Calling for a brighter future". He will express his views on where the start-up world is heading and how FTTH can enable the services of tomorrow and create a better world.

Read our interview with Ruud Hendriks [here](#)

The 13th edition of the FTTH Conference will be held in LuxExpo Exhibition and Congress Centre in the beautiful Luxembourg City from 16 to 18 February 2016. Our 'all inclusive' entrance fee includes attendance at all conference sessions and workshops, access to the exhibition hall, to the FIBEX hands-on-demos and to first-class catering.

[Check the preliminary conference programme >](#)

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Fibration Night at the FTTH Conference 2016

The FTTH Council Europe is organising for the first time an evening party that will be held during the

FTTH Conference 2016: Fibration Night. On Wednesday evening, 17 February, participants are invited to meet to enjoy drinks and dinner in the Big Beer Company restaurant in Luxembourg City. This former brewery is a great venue for celebrating in a festive atmosphere.

For more information go to [Fibration Night](#).

Visit our website www.ftthconference.eu for the latest news and updates on the conference.

NewsBeat

[Survey Says: Speedy Fiber Changing the Way We Use the Internet](#)

[Orange increases its FTTH coverage ambition in Spain to reach 14 million households by 2020](#)

[Gigaclear boss: Not long until everyone has ultra fast broadband](#)

[Vodafone confirms Ireland, Portugal FTTH expansion](#)

[Gigabites: 10-Gig Is the New Gigabit](#)

[FTTB: So kommt das Glasfasernetz ins Haus](#) (a look behind the scenes at M-Net in Germany)

Upcoming Events

The FTTH Council Europe will be speaking or exhibiting at the following events:

19 January: [Bridging the Digital Divide: Ensuring High-Speed and Quality Internet in Europe Beyond 2020 Symposium](#) in Brussels, Belgium

16 - 18 February: [FTTH Conference 2016](#) in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

8 - 11 March: [FTTH Conference LATAM](#) in Lima, Peru

14 March: [CeBIT](#) in Hannover, Germany

Join our social media communities

Be among the first to find out about the latest developments at the FTTH Council Europe by joining our active social media communities. Right now we have 6,292 members in our LinkedIn Group, 3,084 followers on Twitter and 2,517 "likes" on Facebook - so you'll be in great company!

[@FTTHCouncilEU](#)



About us

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, ultra-high-speed access networks to consumers and businesses. The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that enhance the quality of life, contribute to a better environment and increase economic competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu

For general matters, please contact our Secretariat on info@ftthcouncil.eu.

The press contact is Jean-Michel Massenya, PR Officer: pr@ftthcouncil.eu.

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