

NEWS FLASH

For immediate release

FTTH Council Europe welcomes the newly adopted Connecting Europe Broadband Fund

Brussels, 12 December 2016 - A New broadband fund of at least 500 million euros has been announced today to contribute to delivering an inclusive Gigabit Society for Europe and prevent a new Gigabit-divide from the outset.

The FTTH Council Europe applauds the establishment of the new fund with the aim of fostering very high-capacity broadband infrastructure deployment throughout Europe. We urge the fund to invest in future-proof fibre-based networks in the long-term interest of European citizens and businesses. The Connecting Europe Broadband Fund will be especially important for supporting smaller, local fibre projects that have a tremendous role in ensuring that all communities are part of the Gigabit Society.

The ubiquitous availability and wide adoption of fibre networks by end-users and businesses will enable new and innovative technologies while also having a positive impact on job creation and economic growth, in particular in rural communities. Therefore it is of utmost importance that we do not leave anyone behind and prevent a new Gigabit-divide from the outset by fostering future-proof fibre based infrastructure everywhere.

“We very much support the agreement reached today on the Connecting Europe Broadband Fund. Europe needs vastly improved network infrastructure in order to become a global competitive in digital. This fund is an important step fostering investments in fibre-based infrastructure, the only future-proof broadband solution enabling fixed and wireless Gigabit-networks” commented Ronan Kelly, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “Lively discussions on creating a Gigabit Society and latest digital technology innovations will be at the heart of the 14th edition of the FTTH Conference, to be held on 14-16 February 2017 in Marseille, France.”

About the FTTH Conference 2017:

The FTTH Conference, organised by the FTTH Council Europe, is THE place of exchange between different stakeholders involved in fibre: policymakers, regulators, operators, vendors, investors, analysts, media and more. The FTTH Conference reflects the FTTH Council Europe’s objectives to create a connected continent and provide a brighter future for all citizens through fibre to the home rollout and the services it enables.

Information about and registration to the event, including pictures and video clips of the previous conference in Luxembourg, is available on www.ftthconference.eu

About the FTTH Council Europe:

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 150 member companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu

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