

9th June 2006

**FTTH Council Europe Calls for Fair Play in Amsterdam Fibre
Project Court Case and Parliamentary Debate**

*Europe's Largest Next Generation Broadband Body Highlights Negative Impacts on
Dutch Citizens and Businesses*

The FTTH (Fibre-to-the-Home) Council Europe today voices serious concerns about the possible implications for economic development in The Netherlands ahead of court-rulings and possible changes to legislation concerning municipal FTTH deployments in Amsterdam. According to the Council, the anticipated decisions of national political leaders and the Dutch judiciary will have a huge impact on important next generation broadband development across the country at a time when leading broadband economies are benefiting from an explosion in the number of ultra high-speed Internet connections.

The issue relates to the CityNet project in Amsterdam which is a public/private initiative planned to bring 40,000 FTTH connections to the city. The plan is being opposed by UPC, The Netherlands' major cable operator and will be decided in court today. Meanwhile, next Tuesday (13th June) will see the issue raised in parliamentary debate where some MPs are expected to support a revised amendment to Dutch telecom legislation banning government participation in fibre-deployments. The FTTH Council Europe is calling for greater cooperation between all of the stakeholders involved in the project, particularly given the high-barrier costs of primary infrastructure and the need for all parties to contribute wherever and however possible to reduce the cost of access fibre.

"We urgently appeal to the stakeholders in this issue to exercise patience and restraint or risk consequences that could derail The Netherlands' crucial broadband development for several years to come," said Hartwig Tauber, President of the FTTH Council Europe.

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About the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe www.europeftthcouncil.com is a market development organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre-based, broadband access networks to consumers and businesses. With few exceptions, Europe lags well behind the US and Asian tiger economies in the availability of high speed broadband services (10 Mbps and upwards). The Council believes that the development of fibre-based access networks is fundamental to the deployment of such services, and hence to reaping their benefits for European citizens and businesses.

The Council's charter is to work with European governments, policy-makers and opinion leaders qualify and quantify the benefits to be gained from fibre-based broadband access networks, and to identify and help to erode the barriers to their development. Council members are drawn from the telecoms (vendors), broadband content and academic sectors.

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