

New President Elected to Lead FTTH Council Europe

Annual General Assembly of Members votes in Karel Helsen to head a new Board of Directors

The members of the FTTH Council Europe have voted in a new President and Board, having conducted elections today at its Annual General Assembly in Amsterdam. Karel Helsen is the new figurehead of the organisation, and replaces outgoing President Joeri Van Bogaert. Mr Van Bogaert stands down after serving as President for two successive years (the maximum number allowed), and before that as a Board member.

“As a Council and as an industry, we have ensured that FTTH is firmly installed at the heart of the debate around next generation broadband access in Europe. FTTH is part of the solution required to bring Europe out of recession,” commented Karel Helsen. “As we approach the end of this decade, FTTH will not diminish its place as *the* choice for broadband investment, and as a key driver for economic stimulus, environmental sustainability and quality of life. I am honoured to take up this position and hope to see the activities of the Council extend even further in both scope and value.”

The membership also passed several motions at the General Assembly, including the agreement to pursue a new strategy which broadens the target audience of the Council. Furthermore, the membership gave its support to the Council’s plans to gradually expand its geographic remit to incorporate activities in the Middle East region. Together, these steps ensure that the benefits of FTTH are heard by more people than ever before in Europe and further afield.

“Our members are very confident and positive about the future; this is the feeling I get from the General Assembly, and from our latest annual conference which finished in Copenhagen just seven weeks ago,” said Hartwig Tauber, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe. “The appeal of FTTH is increasingly reaching broader, non-technical audiences, and this fact is reflected in the variety of research activities and commercial interests which we will pursue over the next 12 months.”

The full list of current members of the Board is as follows:

President of the Board: Karel Helsen, Draka Communications

Treasurer: Sophie Pautonnier, Mitsubishi Electric

Board of Directors:

- Karl Bauer, Leoni NBG
- Kathleen De Smedt, Alcatel-Lucent
- Wolfgang Fischer, Cisco
- Martin Hatas, Ericsson
- Chris Holden, Corning
- Richard Thomas, Prysmian
- Galit Wellner, ECI Tele

Chairs for each of the five Committees within the FTTH Council Europe were also elected, the full list being as follows:

- Market Intelligence Committee: Thomas Kallstenius, Alcatel-Lucent
- Policy & Regulation Committee: Olivier Danthine, GNS
- Deployment & Operations Committee: Eric Festraets, Alcatel-Lucent
- Network & Service Revenues Committee: Frank Beyrodt, Nokia Siemens Networks
- SUDEFIB Committee: Laurent Gasca, Draka Communications

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About the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe

The FTTH Council Europe www.ftthcouncil.eu is a market development organisation with a mission to accelerate the availability of fibre based, broadband access networks to consumers and businesses.

The Council promotes this technology because it will deliver a flow of new services that make a decisive difference in the lives of consumers and companies and create value for the wider society.

Its members include leading telecommunications companies and many world leaders in the telecommunications industry.

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