



PRESS RELEASE

FTTH Council Europe Calls for World Leaders to bring Fibre Deployment Plans to the Copenhagen Climate Agenda

Comprehensive study shows that fibre-to-the-home is a green technology that will help developed countries to reduce their carbon emissions.

BRUSSELS – 3 November 2009 – The FTTH Council Europe is urging world leaders to consider the potential of fibre-to-the-home in reducing carbon emissions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) to be held in Copenhagen, 7-18 December.

More than 180 countries will gather at this event to negotiate a new international treaty to tackle climate change. As noted by *The Copenhagen Communiqué on Climate Change*, an international organization representing business leaders: “The one thing we do not have is time.” That is why the FTTH Council Europe is stressing the fact that fibre-to-the-home is a future-proof technology that is ready to be deployed today, which has huge potential for reducing carbon emissions.

In 2008 the FTTH Council Europe commissioned a comprehensive study on the environmental impact of fibre-to-the-home deployment. The research, which was carried out by life-cycle assessment experts PricewaterhouseCoopers/Ecobilan, found conclusive evidence that fibre-to-the-home is a highly sustainable broadband technology with a lifetime of at least 30 years.

“The potential reductions in carbon emissions from fibre-to-the-home enhanced services – such as teleworking and telemedicine – are huge. Over the next 30 years those savings could cumulatively exceed one million of tons of CO₂ per million subscribers in Europe, and could lead to even greater savings in North America. As citizens, as a socially responsible organization, our duty is to make stakeholders aware of this potential,” said Karel Helsen, President of the FTTH Council Europe.

Savings could even be higher in many regions where roads and railways are overloaded and where municipalities are considering heavy, costly and environmentally unfriendly extensions of these facilities. Instead investment in FTTH facilities could be addressed: 1 million fibre-to-the-home users would lead to 30,000 fewer people commuting to work each day on average. Road works, hence CO₂ emissions, could also be avoided. This is not taken into account in the studies.

The environmental benefits of fibre go beyond carbon emissions. The research also indicated that fibre deployment would have a positive impact on depletion of stratospheric ozone, atrophication of water resources, and a reduction in other forms of greenhouse gas emissions.

Simultaneously, many countries around the world are formulating strategies to boost their economies through universal access to high-speed broadband. The FTTH Council Europe believes that fibre-to-the-home can serve a double purpose: delivering a future-proof broadband infrastructure, while also helping nations, regions, municipalities, and operators to meet their carbon reduction objectives.

To find out more about the work of the FTTH Council Europe's Sustainable Development Committee (SUDEFIB), and assess the environmental impact of fibre access networks using the web-based "FTTH Configurator", visit www.sudefib.eu.

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About The FTTH Council Europe:

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organization 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 enhances the quality of life, contributes to a better environment and increased competitiveness. The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 115 member companies. Its members include leading telecommunications companies and many world leaders in the telecommunications industry.

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