

EU Member States miss opportunity for future-proof broadband

By Karin Ahl, President of the FTTH Council Europe

Brussels, 11 February 2013 - The FTTH Council Europe is very disappointed that the EU Member States did not agree on the digital part of the Connecting Europe Facility. By reducing the financial envelope down to €1 billion for telecommunications, there will be no room for the support of fibre infrastructure investments.

The decision shows that there still is a lack of understanding of European Governments on the importance of future-proof broadband networks. Governments all over the world increase their efforts to ensure the availability of real broadband connections for their citizens. Therefore the European Union has just missed an important chance to make the right decision, not only for the years to come but also, and more importantly, for the future of a competitive Europe.

The FTTH Council Europe will continue its efforts to create awareness for the importance of fibre access networks in Europe. We will work on solutions to create a positive environment for fibre investments and to enable investors and FTTH projects to successfully implement future-proof fibre access networks. The 'Investors Day' at the FTTH Conference in London next week will be one of those activities.

Now that the EU Member States have failed to realise the importance of the digital part of the Connecting Europe Facility, the role of the FTTH Council Europe on the investment and financing side will be even more important – and we are looking forward to face this challenge.

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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 more than 150 member companies.

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Information on FTTH Conference is available here: www.ftthconference.eu

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