

PRESS RELEASE

## **FTTH Council Europe and Europacable welcome EU Directive on Cost Reduction**

Brussels, 6 May 2014 – “The FTTH Council Europe welcomes the recent adoption by Parliament of the EU Directive on Measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks” said Karin Ahl, President of the FTTH Council Europe. “It is an important and necessary step to reduce the costs of civil work for building new fibre networks. National Governments must implement the directive in an efficient and effective way so that it enables fibre projects to benefit from existing infrastructure like empty ducts and joint digging activities.”

“If implemented stringently, the new directive will considerably reduce investment costs for broadband infrastructure. This will help to secure and improve Europe’s competitiveness in the increasingly digitalised global competition of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With that Europe sets the right priorities”, underlined Thomas Neesen, Secretary General of Europacable.

National Governments in Europe who have already taken action in this area, such as France and Spain, go some way beyond the proposed text and require fibre cabling to be deployed in new building and this option remains available who wish to make quicker progress to fibre to the home networks. The FTTH Council Europe hope that National Governments will use this Directive as a starting point and that all countries in Europe will move quickly to FTTH solutions.

“The FTTH Council Europe and Europacable have been happy to participate in this important piece of legislation and congratulate all involved, particularly Edit Herczog, who championed the dossier in Parliament with support from Gunnar Hökmark’, added Hartwig Tauber, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe.

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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. [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu)

Save the date: FTTH Conference 2015, EXPO XXI Warsaw, Poland, 10-12 February 2015

[www.ftthconference.eu](http://www.ftthconference.eu)

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#### About Europacable

Europacable is the „voice“ of the European wire and cable industry in Brussels, representing the largest cable makers in the world providing global technology leadership, as well as over 200 highly specialized small- and medium sized businesses. The production scope of our members covers the full range of insulated wires and cables, notably energy and optical fibre data- and telecommunications wires and cables, Europacable is listed in the European Commission's transparency register under 453103789-92.

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