

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **New President calls for action to reinforce FTTH deployment in Europe**

**Members of the FTTH Council Europe met at the General Assembly in Amsterdam on 22 and 23 April to set the work plan for the coming year. FTTH Council Europe's Board has appointed Edgar Aker as new President and calls for action to reinforce fibre to the home (FTTH) deployment in Europe.**

BRUSSELS, 23 April 2015 – Edgar Aker has been appointed as the new President of the Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Council Europe, becoming the seventh person to hold this position since the organisation was founded in 2004. Edgar Aker replaces outgoing President Karin Ahl, who occupied this position for the past three years.

In addition to his new position as President of the FTTH Council Europe, Edgar Aker maintains his role as Director of Marketing, Business Development and Strategy for the Prysmian Group. Previously responsible for Draka's telecommunications company for the BeNeLux, Edgar has been involved with the company's broadband activities since the very beginning. He has been a Board Member of the FTTH Council Europe since 2011 and additionally is member of the Dutch telecom association NETELCOM.

"I am deeply honoured to have been chosen as successor of Karin Ahl as the new President of the FTTH Council Europe. On behalf of the whole organisation I'd like to thank Karin for the brilliant job done throughout the past years." commented Edgar. "In line with our strategy to accelerate the adoption of FTTH in Europe, we call for action on decision makers and other stakeholders to create a favourable environment for the roll-out of fibre. The FTTH Council Europe strongly believes that Europe needs fibre now!"

Through its Call for Action, the FTTH Council Europe will focus on five main activities in the 2015-2016 period:

- Creating a business-friendly environment for fibre
- Overcoming technology neutrality
- Discussing new business models to accelerate FTTH roll-out including structural separation
- Ensuring consumer transparency
- Letting Member States act as anchor clients

Following the elections held at the General Assembly, three new Board members were elected. The Board of Directors now consists of the following nine members:

- Edgar Aker, Prysmian Group, The Netherlands – President
- Ronan Kelly, Adtran, Ireland – Treasurer and Vice-President
- Ana Pesovic, Alcatel-Lucent, Belgium – Vice-President
- Thomas Kallstenius, iMinds, Belgium – Vice President
- Tobias Ahl, Rala Infratech, Sweden
- Carlos Barroqueiro, CBE, Portugal
- Wolfgang Fischer, Cisco, Germany
- Joël Mau, Institut Mines-Télécom, France
- Geras van den Hoven, Genexis, The Netherlands

The Working Committee Chairs are:

- José Salgado, Portugal, Chair of the Deployment & Operations Committee
- Joeri Van Bogaert, Belgium, Chair of the Financing Committee
- Jan Schindler, The Netherlands, Chair of the Market Intelligence Committee
- Karin Ahl, Sweden, Chair of the Policy & Regulation Experts Group
- Matthias Nass, Germany, Chair of the Smart Cities Committee
- Lars Bahlmann, Germany, Chair of the World of Applications Committee

Full details about our Board and Committees here: [www.ftthcouncil.eu/about-us/about-us/people](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu/about-us/about-us/people)

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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 2016**, LuxExpo, Luxembourg, 16-18 February 2016

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