

The FTTH Council Europe welcomes Ofcom's "Strategic Review of Digital Communications"

Brussels, 25 February 2016 - The FTTH Council Europe welcomes the publication by Ofcom of its initial conclusions from the *Strategic Review of Digital Communications*¹ in the UK and in particular, the Council salutes the emphasis now being placed on FTTH by Ofcom. The proposals from Ofcom include a number of measures which the FTTH Council Europe believes will accelerate FTTH roll-outs in the UK. Notably, the proposal to improve and prioritise access to passive infrastructure creates a clear enabler for FTTH deployments and the recognition for a need for a strong competitive dynamic for networks to get built. The FTTH Council Europe believes that market forces can and will deliver FTTH in urban areas where enablers (sharing passive infrastructure) and incentives (signalled removal of regulated access in the future in competitive areas) are in place. The initial conclusions from Ofcom move in this direction and are very welcomed.

The FTTH Council Europe is concerned that the business case in rural areas will often require public intervention. If the investment is a monopoly vDSL network as it is today, a digital divide might emerge where urban citizens will have access to much more performant networks than rural communities.

FTTH Council Europe President Edgar Aker said "I welcome these initial conclusions from Ofcom and the new policy direction that is emerging. I think that the policy proposals are certainly moving in a direction that will prioritise FTTH and accelerate deployment in the UK. While the UK ranks close to last in FTTH in Europe hence does not qualify to be listed in the Global FTTH rankings, with the right policy response Ofcom can help the UK to quickly move to the other end of the table and join the league of FTTH leading economies".

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

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¹ <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/telecoms/policy/digital-comms-review/dcr-feb-16/>