

# Newsletter 1

## *Editorial*



Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to address you in this first FITCE-Belgium newsletter.

First of all, in the name of myself and the other board members, I want to wish you an excellent and healthy New Year, with a lot of success in both your private and professional activities.

On behalf of the FITCE-Belgium Board, I also want to thank you for joining our association.

It is gratifying to see how many people welcome our initiative.

This newsletter is the first link between the association and its members. We don't want to define a fixed schedule : we'll publish at regular intervals to inform you about the workings of the Association and both the national and European activities. In the near future, our own [www.fitce.be](http://www.fitce.be) website will become another main communication medium.

Although we are a Belgian Association respectful of all national languages, for practical and budgetary reasons, we've chosen to publish only in English. We are sure that in our international ICT environment, this policy will be accepted.

Most of you are familiar with FITCE, the European organisation. For the newcomers, I would like to lay out briefly the origins of FITCE-Belgium.



FITCE-Belgium developed from the Belgacom Association BITT-UPITT (Beroepsvereniging Ingenieurs Telegrafie-Telefonie/Union Professionnelle des Ingénieurs Télégraphie – Téléphonie) as the exclusive Belgian branch of the European FITCE. It was necessary to sever the link with one single service provider because an association like ours has to resonate with today's open and free, liberalised telecommunication market in Belgium and act as a modern and independent forum. With this purpose in mind, a small team of colleagues from the ICT world, actively involved in FITCE, decided to found this new Association. Other colleagues were contacted and the initiative was greeted with a lot of enthusiasm. FITCE-Belgium was officially founded on 9 November 1999, with the support of over 20 companies and institutions such as several telecom operators, suppliers, universities, high schools, the Belgian regulator, and some professional organisations.

We are still in the start-up phase of our organisation. First of all we ascertained visibility in Belgium by establishing our exclusive relation to FITCE-Europe for the international activities. Next we shall start organising some national activities, alone or in co-operation with other organisations or institutions. We are a highly motivated team and have a lot of fresh ideas and future projects in mind, of which you will soon be informed.

We count on your presence at our activities !

FITCE-Belgium is here for all of you. So we are interested in your remarks, suggestions etc. which you can e-mail to any one of the board members.

You can find the e-mail addresses on the leaflet you received.

Thanks again to all for your support and enthusiasm!

With kind regards,

José Van Ooteghem, Chairman

## ***FITCE 2000 – Congress***

*University of Limerick*

*August 23 - 26*

Every year since 1962, the FITCE Congress has provided the European telecommunications community with an update on services, networks, operations and support systems. Over the years, ongoing change has added new dimensions to the challenges faced by FITCE members. The 39th European Telecommunications Congress in Shannonside, Ireland, offers FITCE an opportunity to explore these dimensions and share views on how the challenges can be tackled.

This year the congress, the main yearly FITCE event, will take place from August 23-26. All members of FITCE-Belgium are strongly encouraged to attend this interesting congress and its many social events. The Technical Sessions of the Congress will take place at the University of Limerick. For the accompanying persons a very attractive programme has been planned with tours to Limerick, Galway and Burren. The Irish Night and Gala Farewell Banquet will appeal to all.

FITCE-Belgium is in the process of working out group travel and hotel arrangements which will be communicated to you in our next newsletter,

together with practical information about registration, fees, etc.. The Irish FITCE association is about to put more information on the FITCE website [www.fitce.org](http://www.fitce.org).

We trust that many of you will be able to attend and to enjoy the atmosphere and hospitality for which Ireland is famous.

The success of a congress like FITCE's depends on the quality of the presentations. You are cordially invited to respond to the call for papers in this newsletter.

## ***FITCE 2000 – Call for Papers***

### **Telecommunications in the Third Millennium**

*New Dimensions, New Challenges*

*Shannonside, August 23-26, 2000*

Contributors are invited to address the theme "New Dimensions, New Challenges" by discussing changes, risks and opportunities in telecommunications and related industries. Presentations are expected to be of interest and value to fellow-professionals in European telecommunications.

### **Sessions**

Sessions will be scheduled to fit the contributions received. Possibilities include:

<i>The Technology Dimension</i>	New solutions and their effects; evolution vs. revolution in technology policy planning.
<i>The Industry Dimension</i>	New relationships in the equipment, network and service markets; privatisations, alliances and take-overs; increasing overlap with IT, media and other industries
<i>The User Dimension</i>	How are end-user needs and expectations evolving? What efforts is the industry making to shape them? What usage patterns are emerging from new methods of service delivery?
<i>The Regulatory Dimension</i>	What is regulated, how does it affect the other dimensions? Are international standards bodies still worthwhile?
<i>The Political Dimension</i>	Is the vision of a unified global infrastructure still relevant? Does Europe have to compete to retain its voice?
<i>The Professional Dimension</i>	What are the career implications for FITCE members, and what should they and their employers do?
<i>The FITCE Dimension</i>	How should FITCE develop to maintain its value to members in a much-changed environment?
<i>New Dimensions</i>	What new dimensions will emerge in the Third Millennium?

## Submissions

*Deadline: Feb 15*

**Submissions are invited as follows :**

Abstracts of 200 words or less

A brief biography of the author(s) to accompany the abstract

Include the name of your national association and your email address

E-mail to Paul Flanagan at [fitcepapers@eircom.ie](mailto:fitcepapers@eircom.ie) as ***plain text - no attachments.***

Deadline for abstracts: *February 15th, 2000.*

## **Papers**

Papers will be selected by committee. Selection will be based on (but not be limited to) :

Interest to the expected audience

Gaining a broad range of topics for the congress

Quality and clarity of abstract

The papers will be strictly time-limited to 15 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions. The deadline for completed papers will be announced later. Contributors will receive a style guide on submission of their abstract. This is a simple guide to facilitate the production of your text and graphics to FITCE standards.

# ***Presentation on Regulatory Issues***

*Tuesday March 14 6:00 p.m.*

We proudly announce our first FITCE.BE presentation by Eric Van

Heesvelde of the BIPT on "Developments in the Telecommunicationworld and their impact on regulations".

This presentation will be in Brussels on March 14 and will start at 6.00 p.m.

More details in our next Newsletter, don't miss this exceptional opportunity to learn more about regulations !