

Newsletter 3

Editorial

If you were there, you must have enjoyed it. If you were not there, you must regret it. Our first activity ever was a success. Read more in this newsletter. We certainly feel encouraged by your response.

In these fast moving Internet times, FITCE-Belgium could not stay behind. Our webmaster still needs to acquire professional status but we have nonetheless made quite some progress already. You can visit our website at <http://www.fitce.be> now. Admittedly, it still looks on some pages like the Belgian cityscapes in these pre-election days: open trenches, "under construction" sites ... but a lot of information is available with more to come and gradually it will look better and better.

Internet and e-mail go hand-in-hand. In order to limit expenses and save the money for worthier purposes than sticking stamps on envelopes, we would like to distribute future newsletters via e-mail in pdf format. Of course we can only do that for those of you who have given us their e-mail address at registration. If you prefer to continue to receive your newsletters via regular mail, then please advise the secretary Mr Georges Devroey (see footer). The newsletters are also accessible on our website.

Marc Lambert

Managing Editor

FITCE 2000 – Congress

New Dimensions, New Challenges

Shannonside, Limerick

Ireland , August 23-26, 2000

Travel arrangements

FITCE-Belgium does not organise group travel to Limerick but provides the following useful information for Belgian participants.

Flights

Travel arrangements to and from Limerick have to be booked by the participants themselves. Virgin Express is the only airline that flies directly and daily from Brussels to Shannon : outward: 15.20 - 15.55 return: 11.40 - 14.20 Price per person: ca. 8.600 BEF including airport tax. You can also fly via Dublin with connection to Limerick. Sabena and Aer Lingus offer good deals when a weekend (Saturday-->Sunday) is included in your trip. A good idea if you are planning to spend a few extra days in Ireland. For bookings you can contact any travel agency.

Accommodation

For those of you planning to attend this interesting congress and prefer the comfort of a regular hotel, we want to stress that the number of hotel rooms is rather limited and that you should urgently reserve your accommodation using the attached form. One of the hotels on the list is already fully booked: namely the JURYS INN HOTEL. For members travelling alone, or a group of people who know each other well, we can recommend the student residence on the University Campus. Each house has 6 to 8 rooms, sharing 2 bathrooms and a comfortable kitchen lounge. The price is very attractive at 52 (Irish) pound (twin) or 26 pound (single). Please note that 1 pound = 51,22 BEF. (Transport is arranged for all lodgings on the list.)

Reservation information

To attend the FITCE congress: mail or fax the attached registration form to Mr. De Catelle (gerard.de_catelle@alcatel.be; fax: 03/451.17.71) and

transfer your fee to account number: 415-5109121-49. The normal fee for delegates and accompanying persons alike amounts to 250 euro. For FITCE members and one accompanying person per member this reduces to 125 euro per person. · To reserve a hotel: fax the attached order form to the number on the form.

Additional information

For more information about the Congress you can visit the FITCE website <http://www.fitce.org./cong00/hotdes00.htm>.

Papers

We are pleased to announce that no less than four papers from Belgium have been accepted by the paper selection committee for presentation at the congress in Limerick. Of the 54 papers submitted, 29 were selected.

Future Activities

Co-operation with K VIV-TI

Since the start-up of our association, we expressed the wish to collaborate with other institutions for the organization of events, courses etc. One of our founding members is the K VIV - Koninklijke Vlaamse Ingenieursvereniging vzw. (Royal Flemish Society of Engineers), who immediately expressed their interest in working together via the "Technologisch Instituut" (TI - www.ti.kviv.be). FITCE.BE recently made an agreement with the "Technology Institute" to organise a few events in a joint-venture agreement.

The Technologisch Instituut (TI) took on the specific task of contributing to the propagation of science and technology, both amongst engineers and scientists, and the public at large. The Technologisch Instituut vzw is a non-profit organisation. Since its foundation, the Technologisch Instituut has been open not only to the highly qualified engineer, but also to the business world. The TI therefore has close ties with industry through the engineers, the numerous participants in its activities and the TI corporate membership. From the conceptual point of view the Technologisch Instituut plays a triple role: - running the membership service for KVIV individual

members and TI corporate members : organizing member-oriented training and educational activities - the social role : distributing knowledge and acting as a platform for discussion of social problems in which technology is a key issue - professional training and exchange of information by organising courses, workshops, symposia and congresses

Important to know is that they can work independently from the K VIV, so the targets groups are not exclusively engineers, but a wider scope of managers, scientists, ...

In the TI exist several "Technological Branches" where colleagues from industry, university etc. give support and consultancy for the organization of events. One of the branches deals with Telecommunication and will work closely together with us.

What are we planning together?

First of all some 4 "lunch-lectures" on a hot topic (more exact info in our next newsletter). After a light lunch, an eminent speaker will explain his vision regarding the subject. The sessions will be held in Brussels (in Dutch, French or English) from 12.00 until 14.30 allowing busy people to attend an interesting lecture in a limited timeframe.

In the autumn, we are also planning a one-day symposium.

Presentation on Regulatory Issues

A reflection on the first event of FITCE.BE

The presentation 'Developments in the World of Telecommunications and their impact on regulations' by Eric Van Heesvelde, General Administrator of the BIPT/IBPT, was a great success. At this first event organized by FITCE.BE we were pleased to welcome some 70 participants from a broad background, such as Telecom operators, the ICT industry and government. The speech given by Mr. Van Heesvelde gave a very good overview of all the telecommunication topics on the regulator's table for the year 2000 and of the long-term impact of convergence on the value chain. It is clear that the communication world will continue to change drastically over the years to come. The audience was given the opportunity to put questions to the speaker who responded very openly.

The FITCE-Belgium board members thank all participants, the speaker and Fabrimetal, hosting the event, for their valued contribution.

Membership Matters

FITCE.BE was founded on November 9, 2000 by a gathering of 26 people and by now has a membership of more than 30 organizations, and more than 100 individuals. Its existence has been published in "Het Belgisch Staatsblad - Le Moniteur Belge" on February 17, 2000.

Membership types

The initial registration form caused some confusion. There are three types of membership. The individual subscription needs no further explanation. Organizations can join FITCE.BE as a regular (ordinary) member or as a supporting member. In both cases, one individual needs to be designated as the official representative of the organization for the general assembly. Next to this representative additional individuals can be registered. A regular member can name one additional individual and a supporting member can name four additional individuals. Those named individuals enjoy the same advantages as any other individual member. They receive all mailings from FITCE-Belgium, can attend our activities at special rates. They are automatically registered as members of FITCE-Europe and therefore receive the magazine FITCE Forum and are entitled to the lower fee for the yearly congress. Organizations that are legally not allowed to be member of a vzw/asbl can as yet join FITCE.BE as a "non-working member" and thus enjoy all advantages of normal members (but no voting right at the general assembly). If you have questions regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact our secretary Mr Georges Devroey.

The following organizations are registered as "supporting members"

ALCATEL, ASCOM, BARCO, BELGACOM, BIPT/IBPT, BITT/UPITT, ERICSSON, LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES, NORTEL NETWORKS, RAYCHEM - TYCO, SIEMENS - ATEA, TELENET OPERATIES

These 19 companies or institutions subscribed as "regular members"

Seba Service, Telindus, Voxtron Flanders, Aviacom, KPN, IBM, Ets Michel Decamp, Hogeschool Limburg - IWT, ATEA, AAD, Radio Detection, Infonet, Matra Communication - EGT, Fabrimetal - FABIT, BT(worldwide) , Twentsche Kabelfabriek, Versatel, T.I. - K VIV, K VIV, 2Ci, Detron, Ministerie van de Vlaamse Gemeenschap - Leefmilieu en Infrastructuur, Radio Detection, IWT

Belgian Protection of Privacy Law of 8th December 1992

Members' personal data is incorporated into the secretary's database. It happens that other organizations ask for a copy of our member list e.g. in

order to send invitations to events that they organize. Our policy is to honour such requests only in case of non-commercial undertakings and for organizations that have activities that are somehow related to ours.

We invite members that object to their data being given to others in this fashion to inform our secretary. Every member is of course entitled to get a copy of his/her own data at any time.

Support from BITT/UPITT

We thank Alfons Hendrickx and his organisation for their continuous support.

José Van Ooteghem

Before January 1, 2000, the BITT/UPITT or Association of Belgacom Engineers represented Belgium in FITCE Europe. During their last General Assembly in Brussels on March 28, the members agreed on extra financial support for our organization, as proposed by their Chairman, Alfons Hendrickx. This financial injection will help to cover substantial start-up costs. It was also decided that BITT/UPITT would become a supporting member of FITCE.BE.