



FITCE.BE

# newsletter

Issue 11, January 2002

## Editorial



Dear colleagues,

At the beginning of 2002, I would like to wish you and your family a healthy and successful new year !

As is the tradition, the start of a new year makes us reflect on the past one. The year 2001 will be remembered for more than one reason, but not the least for what happened on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Let's learn from the past and hope for a better, peaceful world.

The economical situation, especially in the technology sector, was not brilliant and the negative spiral was boosted by the terrorist attacks. Thousands of jobs disappeared in a few months in the ICT-sector, also in Belgium. Let's hope that the optimists who expect a revival of the economy in 2002 are right.

The renewed Belgian FITCE-association has now been active for two years. In this period, we succeeded to build up a significant membership of individuals, companies and other associations. The ongoing support of our members is crucial, and it makes us proud that subscriptions are promptly renewed and that we can welcome new members as well. The activities we organized, evening lectures and lunch sessions, were well attended and we received positive feedback. Fostering meetings among ICT-managers with different backgrounds during interesting events, is the main objective of our association.

As Belgian branch of the international FITCE federation, we contribute to its further development. Thanks to the support of the colleagues in the FITCE Belgium board and of our members, I gained the confidence of the General Assembly as new European President for the next two years. Together with the FITCE Europe board members, I will have the opportunity to work on the further development of the association and to effect the necessary adaptations to a continuously changing environment. Especially the further opening of FITCE to all European ICT-players, monopolists of old and competitors alike, is important and will be an ongoing action point for all national branches.

One of the tasks at the European level is the organization of the most important FITCE event : the yearly congress, attended by hundreds of European specialists. We'll work hard to make sure that this year's congress in Genova – Italy will be as successful as the previous ones !

A lot of new activities will be organized in 2002, and in parallel, a new workgroup will start defining and organizing the FITCE Congress of 2004, which will be hosted once more in Belgium. At this occasion, I want to emphasize the good working of our Belgian FITCE-Board team. We welcomed two new colleagues in the team last year. In the previous

newsletter we reported the joining of Marc Verbruggen of KPN Belgium. More recently Filip Geerts of Agoria became an observer-member of the board. All board members voluntarily devote a great deal of their time to our organization and I would like to thank this group of enthusiastic friends for their indispensable and excellent contribution !

Dear colleagues, thank you for your continuous interest and support, looking forward to meeting you again soon.

Best regards,

José Van Ooteghem  
President

## **e-Government**

### **Evening Lecture**

Mark your calendar. At the next evening lecture, 14 March 2002, Joost Laga, advisor at the cabinet of Minister Daems, speaks about e-Government. This lecture will kindly be hosted by KPN Belgium. An invitation will follow soon.

## **e-Belgium**

### **Evening Lecture**



The last evening lecture of the year 2001 was given on October 10 by Marc Aelbrecht, senior manager at CISCO Systems. The subject '**e-Belgium**' is the title of a book written recently by Mr Aelbrecht out of his concern that Belgium is not active enough in seizing the opportunities provided by the internet society. Internet need not dominate our lives but we need to integrate it to improve the quality of our lives. Thanks to internet we shall get more time to do the things we really like to do. Internet can and must offer an added value to all and every one even if there remain a lot of hurdles to be taken. At any rate, the net will be a catalyst of a new kind of society the knowledge society.

A more extensive report will be published in the next Forum.

## **CD Meeting in Genova**

### **Potential new Countries**

The Comité de Direction of FITCE Europe met in Genova on 16 and 17 November 2001. Next to the congress, this was the main item.

In line with the planned extension of the European Union to the East FITCE too is attracting new member countries from that region. CD members voted unanimously for the acceptance of Poland as a new FITCE member. Consequently, The CD will propose the Polish Federation of Engineers for nomination as a full FITCE member during the General Assembly of September 2002 in Genova.

Through the intermediary of our Greek colleagues, Irina VASILEVKA, who works at the legal department of COSMO Bulgaria (the second GSM operator) informed FITCE about the plan of a group of Bulgarian telecom experts to set up an association of telecom managers in



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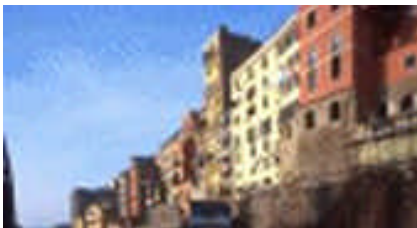
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accordance with the FITCE model and using the FITCE Belgium Statutes as a reference. The CD agrees to assist this initiative but requested more information.

Contacts have also been established with Portugal and Sweden.

## ***FITCE Congress 2002 in Genova – Call for Papers***

### **Call for Papers**



Contributors are invited to address the theme '*Evolving Networks: Service Opportunities and Market Realities*' by referring to the following topics:

#### A) FROM CIRCUIT-SWITCHED TO IP-BASED NETWORKS: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

Voice-over-IP technology evolution;  
Voice-over-IP new services;  
Network architectures: conversions strategies, and evolution;  
Economic justification for the conversion;  
Comparison between new players and established operators;  
Quality of service and operational issues.

#### B) BROADBAND SOLUTIONS FOR THE LAST MILE TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

State of the art of XSL, cable modem, LMDS, and FTTH;  
Deployment status in different countries;  
Local loop unbundling: threat or opportunity?  
Will there be sufficient demand and applications for broadband services?  
Business models (architectures, cost structures, revenue streams, etc.) for the various access systems;  
Infrastructure versus service competition.

#### C) IS THERE MONEY TO BE MADE IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FUTURE?

Technology and deployment state of the art of 2.5G and 3G mobile networks;  
Handset technology evolution;  
New services and applications;  
Regulatory issues (number portability, etc.);  
Need for IP version 6?

### **Submissions**

*Submissions are invited as follows:*

Abstracts of 200 words.

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

Include the name of your national association.

Include your full contact details including email, telephone number and address.

Send the abstracts and the other relevant information to: Clotilde

Canepa Fertini at [fertini@iicgenova.it](mailto:fertini@iicgenova.it), and please copy the e-mail to [aiitsegr@tin.it](mailto:aiitsegr@tin.it).

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Please also send copy of your contribution to the secretary of FITCE Belgium whose address can be found at the bottom of page 2.

## **Deadline**

Deadline for receiving abstracts is Friday **22 February 2002**.

The papers will be selected by the Committee meeting in Rome on **8 March 2002** and will be judged on relevance, content and originality. The full text of the selected papers, in English, is required by **10 June 2002**.

The papers will be strictly time limited to 20 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions.

All contributors selected will receive a style guide.

## ***Lunch Sessions on UMTS***



On 28 November the first lunch session of a series of four was given by Mr Pirlot of the BIPT. An audience of about forty people was given a thorough introduction into the technical aspects of UMTS. Differences with GSM as well as similarities were extensively discussed both regarding services and architecture. The licensing situation in Europe was sketched. We learned that Mobistar could be marked as a 'Significant Market Power' next to Belgacom. The efforts of the BIPT in reducing the tariffs were highlighted. Both the Mobile Terminating Rate and the Fixed to Mobile rate went down.



On 19 December, Mr Recinella of Telindus gave a broad introduction into the business aspects of UMTS deployment and how it differs with that of GSM. The lecture started with a rather discomfiting view of the revenues expected from UMTS. Three different organisations have published widely differing numbers from \$100 billion by 2003 down to \$3,4 billion by 2005. The need for integrated network and services planning between marketing, engineering and finance was stressed. All elements of the network rollout value chain were investigated. Mr Recinella made a strong plea in favour of more outsourcing by the UMTS operators.



There are two more sessions coming up. So it is not too late to take advantage of this activity which is organised in co-operation with the association SITEL. Go to the website <http://www.fitce.be> now for all practical information and registration.

**6 February 2002: PANEL DISCUSSION WITH THE OPERATORS**  
**27 February 2002: CONTENT / MEDIA PLAYERS**

Professor Dr Ir Leo Van Biesen of the VUB will make a synthesis of the four lunch sessions which will be made available to all through the website. A possibly abridged version will be published in the Forum.