

Editorial



Thank you!

The congress in Ghent was a great success. After a festive opening by our president José Van Ooteghem, we found ample food for thought in the excellent program of technical presentations while every night we enjoyed some event in which the quality of the food and drink matched the intensity of social interchange. This is why the overwhelming feeling is one of gratefulness.

Thanks are due in the first place to our partners who provided the means to make it all happen.

Thanks to the many members and others who by their presence made it all worthwhile.

Thanks to the many individuals on the board of FITCE Belgium who spent a great deal of time and effort to put the congress on the rails.

Thanks to Semico, the professional congress organiser, who gave us excellent support and contributed much to the success of the social events and the programme for accompanying persons.

Thanks to Paul Nichols of FITCE UK who, like other years, again produced high-quality Proceedings.

Thanks to the weather-gods who lavishly dispensed fine weather whenever we needed it.

Marc Lambert

Coming Up Next

Calendar

The congress is just barely finished and we are already preparing our next major activity: the 2004/2005 lunch series. This time, the theme will be: **New Trends in Home Networks**. All details are not settled yet but we can already announce dates and subjects. Mark these dates!

- 24/11/04 *Home appliances and their connection to the network*
- 24/02/05 *Future home networks: shape, challenges and (killer?) applications*
- 17/03/05 *Social impact of the new home network technologies*

On December 1, at 16h, Nico Baken, one of the most notable speakers at the congress, will speak about **Streetlight, Integrated Network- and Service Node in Converged Fixed-Mobile Next Generation Networks**. Combining ICT with streetlights is an innovative concept. Streetlights become the open platform for *Street Life Services*.

Academic Opening Session



With an obligatory salute to Captain Kirk of Star Ship Enterprise, Marlène de Wouters got our congress straight off the ground into the lofty realm of broadband communications. The stylish ceremony continued with speeches by our own president José Van Ooteghem, also president of the congress, Carlos González Mateos, president of FITCE, Frank Beke, mayor of the city of Ghent, Christophe Van Vaerenbergh, kabinetschef of Marc Verwilghen, minister for economy, energy, foreign trade and science policy and finally Anne Bucher, head of unit for "Analysis, Policy Planning, eEurope" in the European Commission, representing Olli Rehn, the EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society. And of course, as befits such ceremonial sessions, musical intermezzi were brought by KOA, a fine quartet of young musicians who brought a variety of mostly modern guitar music.



José Van Ooteghem



Carlos González Mateos



Frank Beke



Christophe Van Vaerenbergh



Anne Bucher

The congress in numbers

There were 242 participants of whom 95 Belgians. There were near to 100 accompanying persons.

Technical Sessions



In the afternoon of September 8, the technical and main part of the congress got an excellent start with an all-keynote-speakers session, chaired by Marc Verbruggen, coordinator for the technical contents of the congress. We see Marc together with the speakers at the Q&A table at the end of the session. From left to right Prof Lagasse of Ghent University, Jacques Heynen, Belgacom, Dr Carrelli, Eurescom and Eric Van Heesvelde, BIPT.



Dr Carrelli,
Director of
Eurescom

The congress went on for nine more technical sessions till Friday evening 10 October. By and large, the presentations were interesting and of high quality. Some were tongue in cheek but thought provoking like Dr Carrelli's. One of the more sensational ones was a kind of stereo presentation with Nico Baken of KPN at the pulpit and Ramin Hekmat of TU Delft at the controls for a simulation of an ad-hoc distributed personal network. As mentioned on page 1, we expect Nico Baken for an evening session on 1 December with as subject **Streetlight**; surely a deceptively common name for a revolutionary concept. A must!



Nico Baken



Ramin Hekmat



The technical facilities managed by Maverick and especially the way the screen was set up solicited general admiration.

Session chairmen had their hands full getting their flock together, giving practical instructions, preparing their intros and the Q&A interval at the end of their session. Prof Andy Valdar of University College London, like his colleagues, handled it all beautifully and he did not lose his engaging smile in the process.



On Saturday 11 September, last day of the congress, there was a round table, chaired by Prof Piet Demeester of Ghent University. All session chairmen presented the main messages they had retained from the presentations in their session. This had never been done before in a FITCE congress and was a clear success. Prof Demeester finally rounded up all those messages into a grand synthesis, concluding that the congress was about broadband and about quality of service but also pointed to a stronger future concern about quality of life. This final presentation as well as the keynote presentations will be made available on www.fitce.org in due time. And of course, all members will receive the Proceedings which again were perfectly edited by Paul Nichols.

Social Activities



The evening of the opening day, mayor Frank Beke welcomed us in the gothic room of the town hall. After the speeches, we had the rare opportunity to visit the town hall.



On the second evening we enjoyed a Breughel feast in the Castle of the Counts, with spectacular acts, lots of food and drink. All were in high spirits and had an excellent time.



On Friday, 10 October, Minister Fientje Moerman welcomed us at Flanders Expo for a visit to the broadband exhibition in the framework of the international fair. We got a demonstration of tomorrow's digital television, courtesy of Belgacom and Telenet. Ghent University also had a prominent presence. Again, we were treated to a full walking dinner.



And to round it all up, we finished with the gala dinner in the Handelsbeurs, a prestigious location where we got the full stylish treatment in the best FITCE tradition; with the ladies in glamorous dress, as witnessed in the left column by the Dutch delegation. Upper right: Marc Verbruggen and his wife; bottom middle: Gérard De Catelle, board member and project leader for the congress, talks to Lieve Ectors, director of Semico. The three of them made everything go smoothly and thus contributed greatly to the success of the congress. At the gala dinner, it is custom to announce the prizes. This year, the prize for **best paper** went to Jeroen Hoebeke, Ghent University. The prize for **best presentation** went to Gery Pollet, Aquanta, and the prize for **best young presenter** went to Robert Wu, Barco.