



FITCE.BE

# newsletter

Issue 9, May 2001

## Editorial



Over the last few months we have time and again been shaken by layoff after layoff in the telecom industry. What is going on? Is the once so bright future not going to materialize? Jo Cornu at his speech for FITCE was optimistic. Growth has slowed down for sure but was incredibly high for a few years. Now there is a period of consolidation, no reason for panic.

While spring is slow in coming we are turning our attention to the FITCE summer event of events, the annual congress. Join the crowd of faithful congress-goers for another intense period of interesting presentations and social events. And bring your partner as this is one of the rare congresses where accompanying persons are kept busy with an attractive program of their own while many of the social events are so much more fun when you can share them. And the fee is certainly not a barrier; which other congress can you go to for 130 euro?

You were probably surprised as we were when receiving another FITCE Forum magazine, dated April-May-June 2000 but with the Barcelona congress information. The contract with the editor required that one last issue be published. Except for the congress information which is actual, the rest of the issue is simply a copy of the issue with the date specified on the cover. From now on, only expect periodic newsletters from FITCE Europe.

Marc Lambert  
Managing Editor

## Telecommunications : the revolution continues

### Evening Lecture

We registered 65 participants for the lecture given on March 8 by **Jo Cornu**. In his speech "**Telecommunications : the revolution continues**", Mr Cornu sketched a broad panorama of the telecommunications landscape today. He put the current crisis in perspective by pointing to the exceedingly high growth rates of the years before the crisis, reaching more than 30%. The current downwards revised rates of around 20% are still much more than most other branches of industry can only dream of. VoDSL was emphasized as a highly promising technology for use over unbundled loops by alternative operators. Pure data traffic is not going to be sufficient to sustain and grow the revenue stream of operators. Although data represents already 50% or more of today's traffic, it only represents 10% of the revenue. On UMTS networks, operators will need to offer added value applications as only 25% of the revenues will come out of data traffic per se. FITCE Belgium thanks **Agoria** for gracefully hosting this lecture.

# ***FITCE Europe***

## **Looking for the next Chairman**



Out of three candidates, the Board elected its own president José Van Ooteghem to be the official candidate for the post of chairman of FITCE Europe in the next period starting at the congress in Barcelona. The board estimated that José offered the best qualifications because of his long involvement with FITCE both at the Belgian and European level and his unrelenting efforts to promote and innovate FITCE.

The next step in the process is the vote at the General Assembly during the congress in Barcelona. The board likes to thank José for accepting this responsibility.

## ***FITCE Congress 2001 in Barcelona***



The congress of Shannon seems like only yesterday but a year has passed and it is time again to think about this year's congress in Barcelona. The congress from August 21 to 25 is the main event of FITCE and we hope that you will again be present in great numbers. All necessary or useful information is available on the FITCE Europe website <http://www.fitce.org>. For those who may not have easy access to internet, the essential information is added as annexes to this newsletter or as separate files for those who receive the newsletter by e-mail.

### **Programme**

For the delegates' programme, see file 'delegates\_programme'. The programme for accompanying persons is in file 'accompanying\_persons\_programme'.

### **Registration**

Registration must be made before May 30, 2001, by sending the registration form, duly filled-in, together with payment to our treasurer: Gérard DE CATELLE, Pr. Boudewijnlaan 47-49, 2650 Edegem, [gerard.de\\_catelle@alcatel.be](mailto:gerard.de_catelle@alcatel.be), Tel 03 451 2619, Fax 03 451 1771. Please also e-mail a copy to: [fitce2001@iies.es](mailto:fitce2001@iies.es), [cgonza@iies.es](mailto:cgonza@iies.es) and [unicongmad@atlantaviajes.es](mailto:unicongmad@atlantaviajes.es). The registration form is added as file 'registration\_form'.

The registration fee, same for both delegates and accompanying persons, amounts to 130 euro per person for members and 260 euro per person for non-members. Payment to be made to account KBC 415-5109121-49.

#### **REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:**

##### *Delegates:*

- Attendance to all congress sessions
- Coffees and work lunches during sessions
- Attendance to Congress Social events
- Documentation



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## *Accompanying persons:*

Attendance to Congress Opening session  
Lunch at the congress venue on Opening day  
Excursions mentioned in the accompanying programme  
Lunch during excursions  
Attendance to Congress Social events

## **Hotels**

Information on the hotels with which FITCE has a price arrangement can be found in file 'hotel\_information'. It is particularly convenient to stay at the hotel where the venue is for the congress: Fira Palace. We warmly recommend it so as to have as many Belgian delegates in the same hotel as possible. Use the file 'hotel\_booking\_form' to make your reservation.

## **Papers**

The provisional technical programme with the schedule of all presentations is added as file 'technical\_programme'. Five papers from Belgium, out of six submitted, have been selected by the committee. This is an excellent score. Our thanks and congratulations to the individuals who will defend our colours. These are the Belgian contributions:

### *Bringing Broadband To the Customer*

By Geert Dobbelaere, Belgacom

### *Avoiding xDSL provisioning pitfalls: How to mass market and roll out xDSL services*

By Koen Van de Vel, Lucent Technologies

### *Is there still a role for government in the information society?*

By Joost Laga, Belgian Ministry of Telecommunications

### *The Next Generation Residential Gateway*

By Jan Bouwen and Tu-Anh Nguyen, Alcatel

### *The introduction of the Optical Network in Belgacom backbone*

By Marc Mignon, Belgacom

The session dedicated to the Next Generation Network will be chaired by Egied Dekoster of Belgacom.

## ***FITCE Europe Website***

Matthew Skeels has introduced a number of novelties on the FITCE Europe website for which he requests our attention. Those new features allow greater interactivity between the site and the user. Most of those features require the members' username (fitce033) and password (biology).

This allows members to network through the website and interact with

## **Online Networking**

other FITCE members with similar interests and skills. To make this really useful, as many people as possible must register their details. If you have not already done so, register now by clicking <http://www.fitce.org/search/reg.htm>.

## **Members on the Move**

FITCE members who change job, role or address can advertise their details on the site for other members to view. Just click on 'Members on the Move' link on the side menu bar to let others know.

## **FITCE Forum**

The most recent edition of the newsletter will be included on the website for members only.

## **Mailing List**

The website now has a mailing list to promote FITCE and the website, keeping subscribers informed about developments. Initially it will be up to visitors to submit their email address, but later, email addresses of members may be added in bulk using files held by the National Associations.

## **Articles**

*News items and articles for the website or newsletters are always most welcome. If you have anything you think may be of interest please send it to [mlambert\\_43@hotmail.com](mailto:mlambert_43@hotmail.com).*

# ***Internet-based learning***

## **E-learning**

Professor Olivier Bonaventure, Infonet Group – Université de Namur, informs us of the fact that on his initiative, all networking courses of the university are being recorded on an internet server with the purpose of making them universally accessible. Click on <http://www.infonet.fundp.ac.be/LEARN> to gain access.

*As this kind of source of education is potentially of great interest to our members or their companies, you are invited to share other sources that you may be aware of. Links will be inserted on our website. Mail to [mlambert\\_43@hotmail.com](mailto:mlambert_43@hotmail.com).*