



Press release

### **The FTTH Council Europe sets out its priorities and elects new President, Board Members and Committee Chairs**

**Brussels, 9 June 2020** – During its first virtual General Assembly, the FTTH Council Europe adopted its work programme and priorities and elected new Board members and Work Committee Chairs.

The European Commission has recently presented an ambitious recovery plan for the EU economy also focusing on green and digital transformations. The past few months have shown us that connectivity supported by robust and reliable digital infrastructures plays and will continue to play a crucial role in supporting the evolution of society and build a more resilient and sustainable economy.

The FTTH Council Europe is ready to contribute to the discussion with fact-based & high-quality studies and data and is therefore outlining its upcoming projects.

#### Update on the State of Fibre

Our latest [FTTH/B Market Panorama](#)<sup>1</sup> shows that significant progress have been made in the deployment of FTTH/B networks and we are now planning to release a **breakdown of fibre deployments in both urban and rural areas in a selection of European countries to highlight where the digital divide is most prominent**. It is essential to maintain a focus on Very-High Capacity networks to ensure that all end-users can benefit from the digital transition.

#### Contribution of the fibre sector to the fight against climate change and migration to full fibre

In addition to facilitating more remote working and education, **fibre networks are also pivotal to the transition to a greener economy, as they use much less energy than copper-based infrastructure and thus can significantly lower emissions produced by the telecom and ICT sector**. The FTTH Council Europe will delve into the issue of energy efficiency of the FTTH/P networks and will further pursue its work on copper switch-off and migration to fibre by releasing a follow-up report<sup>2</sup> on the challenges and potential solutions to ease the transition to fibre infrastructures.

#### Fibre and 5G convergence: cost-saving opportunities

**With the transition to fibre also being at the core of the 5G deployment, the FTTH Council Europe will release an update to its fibre/5G convergence study published in 2019<sup>3</sup> focusing on brownfield areas**. Last year's study showed that a coordinated 5G and FTTH deployment in greenfield areas could lead to very significant savings of the FTTH component of 5G deployments compared to an uncoordinated approach.

#### Monetising on fibre: best practices and misleading fibre advertisement

Finally, while digital skills are necessary for consumers to make the most of the benefits of a full-fibre society, misleading fibre advertising is still hampering fibre take-up. **The FTTH Council Europe will present a study that aims to identify European best practices in fibre advertising and calls for clear**

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<sup>1</sup> The latest Market Panorama describing the state of fibre in Europe shows that overall the number of homes passed with FTTH/B in EU28 has grown from 74.4m homes-passed in September 2018 to 88.1m in September 2019, now representing 39.4% of all households. Download the full report [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> In 2019 the FTTH Council produced a study on measures to facilitate copper switch-off. The study is available [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> The fibre/5G convergence study highlights: the extra investment to make a full fibre network 5G ready is in the range of 0.4% to 7.2%, whereas the range of cost savings for a fibre-5G network due to convergence can reach between 65% and 96%. The study is available [here](#).

**guidelines on fibre advertisement** as fostering uptake requires consumers to be properly informed about which products meet the desired criteria and what benefits they confer.

#### Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

At the General Assembly, new Board Members of the FTTH Council Europe and Committee Chairs were elected. They are all united in working towards the mission of the Council to accelerate ubiquitous, full fibre-based connectivity empowering a leading Digital Society throughout Europe.

The Board of Directors consists of the following nine members in 2020:

**Eric Festraets**, Nokia, **President**

**Steffen Leiwesmeier**, Hamburg Commercial Bank AG, **Treasurer**

**Eric Joyce**, ADTRAN

**Vincent Garnier**, Commscope

**Raf Meersman**, Comsof

**Mike Knott**, Corning

**Christof Sommerberg**, Deutsche Glasfaser Holding GmbH

**Luigi Gambardella**, Open Fiber

**Jan Schindler**, Prysmian Group

Our Committees are the forum where intelligence is shared amongst fellow members and our positions are shaped.

**The Working Committee Chairs elected at the General Assembly are:**

**Eric Joyce**, ADTRAN, Chair of the Market Intelligence Committee

**Tom Bambury**, Fujikura, Chair of the Deployment & Operations Committee

**Florian Damas**, Nokia, Chair of the Fibre Business Models Committee

#### **Contact:**

Aurélie Bladocha Coelho

Acting Director General

[aurelie.bladocha-coelho@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:aurelie.bladocha-coelho@ftthcouncil.eu) Tel: +32 478 78 61 00

Sergejs Mikaeljans

Communications and Public Affairs Officer

[sergejs.mikaeljans@ftthcouncil.eu](mailto:sergejs.mikaeljans@ftthcouncil.eu) Tel: +32 474 81 04 54

#### **About the FTTH Council Europe**

The FTTH Council Europe is an industry organisation with a mission to accelerate ubiquitous full fibre-based connectivity empowering a leading Digital Society throughout Europe.

Fibre is a future-proof infrastructure which enables an unparalleled fixed and wireless experience as well as new innovative digital technologies and services, the prerequisites for Europe's global competitiveness and sustainability.

The FTTH Council Europe's vision is that fibre connectivity will transform and enhance the way we live, do business and interact, connecting everyone and everything, everywhere.

The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. [www.ftthcouncil.eu](http://www.ftthcouncil.eu)

