



FITCE.BE

newsletter

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Editorial



Dear FITCE friends,

Another year has just flown by. On behalf of the FITCE.BE board, I wish you and your families a healthy, prosperous and successful 2006.

At the beginning of a new year it is appropriate to reflect on the previous one, and also to take a look at the future. In our domain, the year 2005 certainly can be considered a successful one. The ICT sector exhibited healthy growth in a climate of investment and innovation. We witnessed the expected launch of some new technologies, networks and services, e.g. the introduction of 3G-services and iDTV. The migration to a full IP world continued unabated, creating many new opportunities for the telecom industry and its customers.

Although the Belgian FITCE branch is well established on the national ICT-scene, partly thanks to the successful congress we organised in Ghent in 2004, we must continuously evaluate the situation, look for opportunities and take new initiatives. For instance, as the contribution of the academic world to our organisation was becoming ever more important, we enriched our team with the expertise of three authoritative university professors. For our young colleagues, we recently launched the "FITCE.BE YOUNG ICT PERSONALITY" contest of which the main prize will be a sponsored trip to Athens for the next FITCE congress. Our Belgian branch is one of the most active of the European federation, and we take great pride and pleasure in contributing to the workgroups that brainstorm about recommendations for the future development of FITCE Europe. In order to increase both our scope and effectiveness we intend to share the organisation of events more frequently with other ICT organisations as long as our independent and neutral status is not jeopardised.

In keeping with established tradition, we organised last year, and expect to continue this year, a number of evening lectures and a series of lunch sessions. A significant Belgian delegation attended the excellent FITCE congress in Vienna last summer.

But of course, our most important partners, dear friends, are you, our members. We would like to sincerely thank you for your ongoing support to our organisation, and look forward to meeting you again at one of our next activities soon; the upcoming General Assembly in March is an excellent opportunity.

With kind regards,

José Van Ooteghem
President FITCE.BE

Workshop on Regulations

On 16 February, 2006, FITCE.BE joins BELTUG in organising a **Workshop on Regulations**. The activity will start at 15:00 with an introduction by Mr. David Stevens, Researcher on Communications Law at the "Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT - K.U.Leuven", followed by a Q&A session with a panel of experts.

General Assembly



This year's General Assembly will again be a memorable event. On 11 March, we will assemble in Leuven at 14:00 for a first activity, probably a visit to the newest INBEV brewery. Follows of course the formal General Assembly and we end with the traditional dinner. More details will be communicated as soon as the necessary arrangements have been confirmed.

45th FITCE Congress in Athens



It is unlikely that we shall meet this lady in Athens this year as she is permanently confined to the Louvre in Paris but she beckons you nevertheless to go to Athens and discover some of the glory of her birthplace and of course, by the same token, participate in the next FITCE congress (30 August – 2 September, 2006). This year's theme is "**Telecom Wars: The Return of the Profit**".

All members have received the Call for Papers by e-mail. Some of the deadlines have been changed however. E.g. the deadline for abstracts is now 7 March, 2006. We therefore like to advise you to visit www.fitce2006.gr/web/callforpapers.html and get the latest and the greatest or look in the recent Forum edition where the Call for Papers also has been published.

And please do consider submitting a paper.

FITCE.BE Young ICT Personality

Innovation in Electronic Communications

In the UK, **The Communications Network** (www.tcn-uk.org) is an ICT organisation which incorporates FITCE UK. TCN has organised since several years a contest, formerly called the **Anning Competition**, lately **Young Person of the Year**. The representatives of FITCE UK in the Comité de Direction of FITCE have promoted the idea of such a competition to their colleagues. As a consequence, several FITCE countries are now starting up their own competition with the intention of making this an annual event. FITCE Belgium as one of the most active associations could not stay behind and recently launched its **FITCE.BE Young ICT Personality** contest. If you, as you should, feel young enough to participate but your true age prevents it, do try and stimulate a younger colleague to engage in this worthwhile experience. You can read all about it in www.fitce.be/Young ICT Personality 2006.htm.

Innovation Management

Evening Lecture

The next evening lecture will be given by Mr Thierry Van Landegem, CTO of Alcatel Bell who will address the ever intriguing subject of **Innovation Management**. More details will follow soon.

Lunch Meetings on Radio Frequency Identification



We are half-way through our series of lunch sessions concerning RFID. The two sessions so far were exceptionally clear and together covered the technical aspects of this technology. The two remaining sessions will address the application side. A good opportunity to get up-to-date on this important technology.

On 28/10/2005, Mr. Eddy Van Herbruggen, CTO Zetes Group, initiated the series with a lecture entitled: **RFID: Old technology with huge opportunity to modify today's business?** The speaker introduced us to the many different identification technologies and when to use which. Of course, RFID as one of the technologies which is coming in favour was treated more extensively.



On 25/11/2005, Mr. Lieven Kenis, Business Development Manager - RFID, Siemens Business Services, clarified what it takes in terms of IT hardware and software in order to set up a successful implementation of RFID. The title of his talk: **RFID Applications in today's business: a challenge for back-office IT systems**. The basic components of RFID, tags and readers, provide only just that, the basis. To build a comprehensive process using that basic technology requires edge servers, middleware and Enterprise Resource Planning software. The speaker gave examples of applications like the use of RFID all along the supply chain by the Metro Group in a pilot 'Kaufhof' project and for patient ID & tracking at Jacobi Medical Center in New York.

The upcoming remaining lunch sessions:

- On 26/1/2006, Ing. Luc Pleysier, Expert VIL, Flemish Institute for Logistics, speaks on **RFID: investing in Supply Chain Efficiency?**
- On 2/3/2006, the talk will be on **RFID: possible applications to make our world more secure and ethical aspects**. Speaker(s) to be announced.

Lunch Sessions on Home Networks

Report

Prof. Dr. Ir. Leo Van Biesen wrote a summary of the three lunch sessions of the season 2004-2005 on **New Trends in Home Networks**. You found the abridged version in the latest Forum and could find the full report on www.fitce.be/lunch_sessions_2004-5.pdf . With sincere thanks to Professor Van Biesen who will also summarise for us the lunch sessions of 2005-2006.

Associate Membership



FITCE Belgium entertains a special relationship with some ICT organisations which have goals and/or organise activities which are compatible with those of FITCE. Information addressed to the FITCE.BE members is routinely sent to one or a few representatives of the associate member organisation. The cooperation is essentially limited to promoting, on request, each other's activities through own channels of communication. Free or reduced fee entrance tickets are sometimes provided.

At this moment, there are two such organisations, namely SITEL (**Société Belge des Ingénieurs des Télécommunications et d'Électronique**) and ETIS (**The Global IT Association for Telecommunications**).

TMAB - TelecomCITY



From May 10 to 12, 2005, for the first time, FITCE Belgium was present at the TelecomCITY exhibition/seminar.



During the seminar, on May 12 from 10.15 to 11.00, FITCE Belgium and AGORIA-FEBELTEL (Telecommunications solutions) proposed the lecture "Reshaping the legal framework for the (tele)communications sectors" by David Stevens, Researcher on Communications Law at the "Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT - K.U.Leuven".

Sharing a booth at the exhibition with some other organisation like Belgian Broadband Platform this time, is the only affordable approach and may be repeated this year.