

Editorial



This newsletter is heavily dominated by the recent congress in Athens. Never before was the Belgian presence on stage more important than during this year's congress. It gave us pride and even warm feelings to see so many and especially young people from academia perform so well. All three universities represented in our board, K.U.Leuven, UGent and VUB were represented by one or several of their staff. We like to commend all those who were involved in submitting, preparing and presenting papers as well as in the paper selection process. If you were not present at the congress, do try to attend the repeat performance on 30 November and 14 December, you will not regret it.

The evening session on e-Inclusion was quite successful as well with two excellent speakers who gave us a good understanding of this somewhat elusive term and brought home the importance of it for the future equitable and balanced development of society.

As the year 2006 draws to an end, you can expect soon to receive the invitation for renewal of your membership. The membership renewal mailing will give you an idea of the events that we are planning so you can convince yourself that FITCE Belgium remains worth your while.

Marc Lambert

45th FITCE Congress in Athens



The appearance of Ms. Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media, was undoubtedly the sensation at FITCE's 45th European Telecommunications Congress. The congress with as motto 'Telecom Wars: the Return of the Profit' was held in Athens from 30 August to 3 September, 2006. The last day of the congress, Ms. Reding was the keynote speaker in the round-up session. She talked about her priorities: European spectrum policy, better regulation and the 'Inclusive Society'.

- Need for a Europe-wide spectrum policy, prepared and enforced by a European Spectrum Institute.
- Better regulation by stressing substance over procedure, creation of a single European Regulator, speeding up the process, simplification.
- Inclusive Society essential for reaching the social and economic goals of the European Union as formulated in the Lisbon Strategy.

She also elaborated on some of her initiatives in e-government (people should be 'on-line' rather than stand 'in-line'), e-health (ICT can lower the cost of social security, provide support for ageing people) and security.

Opening



After the opening session, the reception is the opportunity for friends to meet again while some of the presenters are getting their first flavour of a FITCE congress. On the left bottom picture, Peggy Valcke and Eleni Kosta, both from ICRI at K.U.Leuven. Bottom right picture shows Marc Verbruggen toasting with Raf Meersman and Koert Vlaeminck.



Technical Sessions



No less than eight paper proposals from Belgium had been accepted by the international scientific committee in which our national association was represented by Marc Verbruggen, member of the board (seen here on the left while introducing the session on 'How to converge'). One additional Belgian paper was presented on behalf of sponsor Alcatel. Also, the winner of this year's contest 'FITCE.BE Young ICT Personality of the Year', whose prize was participation in the congress, presented his winning paper. FITCE Belgium thus had a very strong representation in this congress which was once again of high quality both by the intrinsic value of the presentations and presenters but also by the diversity of the subjects.



Left, Raf Meersman and Jan Van Ooteghem are waiting for their turn to take the floor for a joint presentation. Below left, Pieter Simoens gets ready for his speech. Below right from the left, Peggy Valcke together with Veerle Van Rompaey and Bart Van Der Meerssche looking ahead with justified confidence to yet another excellent performance.



Left, Roland Thienpont on the left gets some last minute good words from Marc Verbruggen before taking the stage.



Above left, Eleni Kosta delivers the presentation with which she won the



'Best Young Presenter' award. Above right, Carine Neus at the presenters' table during her session.

Left, last but not least, Steven Van den Berghe, repeats the presentation with which he won the 'FITCE.BE Young ICT Personality of 2006' prize and a ticket for Athens.

Greek night



What would congresses be without some 'couleur locale'? We were



generously treated to a Greek night, lots of music and dancing, good food, excellent company... All things that are clearly enjoyed by Christian Vanhuffel, Walter Van Hemeledonck and Marc Verbruggen.



These also were happy moments of relaxation for our presenters. From left to right, Nico Deblauwe, Carine Neus, Roland Thienpont, Bart Van Der Meerssche, Veerle Van Rompaey, Steven Van den Berghe, Jan Van Ooteghem, Koert Vlaeminck and Pieter Simoens.



Final Session

General Assembly



The last day of the congress started in the morning with the memorable round-up session in which Ms. Viviane Reding, EU commissioner for Information Society and Media, was the keynote speaker. After her speech, the session chairmen in turn gave



their opinion on what were the main points to be retained from the presentations in their session. After the break, the FITCE members among the participants gathered for the obligatory General Assembly, presided by the current FITCE president Georgios Argyropoulos flanked by his officers and the national delegates to the 'Comité de Direction'. In this picture, Filip Geerts (left of the president) of the FITCE.BE board and secretary general of FITCE, presents his report. On the right of the president, Georges Devroey, secretary of FITCE.BE and treasurer of FITCE.

Visit of Athens



In the afternoon of that last day, we enjoyed a tour of Athens with of course as highlights, the Acropolis with the Parthenon and the Chariatides of the Erechteion and below right, the Olympic stadium where the athletics contests are held and the marathon terminates. Enough to make the ladies dream of ...



Gala Dinner



No congress is complete without a gala dinner. This time we gathered around the swimming pool of the Hilton hotel which was the venue of the congress. You can tell from these pictures that we ended in style.

And as

the proverbial cherry on the cake for us Belgians, but for the Greeks as well, the president announced that Eleni Kosta had won the prize of 'Best Young Presenter'. Eleni is from Crete but represented Belgium as she is currently working at ICRI at the K.U.Leuven. 'Best Presenter' was Andy Valdar of the UK. Our sincere congratulations to both.



e-Inclusion

Evening Lecture



On October 5, 2006, we focused on e-Inclusion with an evening session with two reputed speakers, Dr. Paul Timmers, Head of Unit European Commission, DG Information Society and Media, and Mr. Jan Deprest, Chairman of the Board of Directors of FEDICT.

In his speech 'From digital divide to digital opportunity', Dr. Timmers sketched the broad picture, indicating the many factors that can lead to the exclusion of whole groups of people from the benefits of ICT. While at this moment 30-40% of the population are left behind, it is a clear objective of the European Commission to achieve a barrier-free and inclusive Information Society. Analysis shows that even after activation of the market through new technologies, innovative services and other measures, there remains a substantial group of people left behind. The Commission obtained from the Council of Ministers the so called Declaration of Riga which makes Inclusion a cornerstone of the EU policy in the Information Society. Commissioner Viviane Reding "...promises she will answer this call". Concrete objectives have been determined already. [Dr. Timmers' presentation](#) can be found on the web.

Mr. Jan Deprest then addressed the Belgian situation and the government's efforts at bridging the digital divide. He highlighted the two main focuses of FEDICT, the young Ministry of ICT, which are e-government and e-society. While the first deals with upgrading the services of the government to the citizen through ICT, the second deals with making available the benefits of ICT to all. In the remainder of his spirited speech, Mr. Deprest gave an overview of the many initiatives of FEDICT in the area of e-society such as 'Internet for All'. [Mr. Deprest's presentation](#) can be found on the web.

The event in the by now familiar environment of the Salons De Romree in Grimbergen was very well attended and the participants lingered on for quite a while discussing the presentations and any other ICT matters of current interest, meanwhile enjoying the excellent catering of the Salons.

45th FITCE Congress in Athens – The Sequel

Evening Lectures

Those who could not attend the congress, still have an opportunity to hear the Belgian presentations. In Leuven, on 30 November at 18:30, four of the presentations will be given, and in Ghent on 14 December, the other four. You can find the detailed program at

www.fitce.be/pamphlet061130-1214.htm where you can also register.

Support the next generation of telecom experts and have an enjoyable and stimulating evening by attending these events. These are the presentations:

An event-driven LBS for public transport: design and feasibility study of GSM-based positioning – Nico Deblauwe, VUB

Estimation of the achievable DSL service – Carine Neus, VUB

Children are joining the ranks of telecom researchers – Bart Van Der Meerssche, Alcatel

Adding cost-drivers to the pricing process by a bottom-up cost-allocation approach – Raf Meersman, COMSOF and Jan Van Ooteghem, UGent

Mobility for moving users through thin clients: hype or future ? – Matthias Strobbe, UGent

IPTV Deployments: trigger for Advanced Network Services - Tim Wauters and Koert Vlaeminck, UGent

Data retention – Eleni Kosta, K.U.Leuven

Re-regulation of the Info-Communications Market. Delivering Content Services under the new European Framework for audiovisual media: fair play or unfair competition – Peggy Valcke, K.U.Leuven

ICT2day

FITCE Presence



Like last year, FITCE Belgium participated in the event organised by TMAB and which took place on 17 and 18 May. FITCE.BE had its own booth and made some good contacts. Also, José Van Ooteghem, our president, chaired a half-day session on the second day of the event.