



FITCE.BE

newsletter

Issue 6, November 2000

Editorial



This year's congress is already but a memory. Once again, the magic of FITCE worked. FITCE is not about specific technologies, nor is it about old world monopolies or their confrontation with new world paradigms. FITCE is about people working in an exciting field, where so many things are happening that our head is spinning. About people who beyond the necessary conflict caused by competition are capable of strong feelings of belonging. Being part of a wider corporation that is transforming society and feeling good about it. If social conflict is the breakdown of communication then peace must thrive on the things we are all working on. Surely a worthwhile undertaking.

Next year's congress is in a city vibrant with energy and one of the most celebrated cities of Europe. Should you not start thinking of joining us?

In the meantime, Paul Waeben and Joannes De Wilde of our Board did an excellent job in organizing a series of luncheon lectures in cooperation with the Technologisch Instituut of the K VIV. What is happening in the access network is clearly a central issue to the future of Telecommunications. If you have not attended one of the first two lectures, do consider the final two, it will be well worth your while.

Marc Lambert
Managing Editor

FITCE 2000 – Congress

Memories

New Dimensions, New Challenges
Shannonside
Limerick
Ireland, August 23-26, 2000



Memories are made of this.

The 39th Telecommunications Congress, this year hosted by the Irish Institute of Engineers, was as always the premier event of the year for our Association. Some 500 participants from all over Europe, delegates and partners, registered for the occasion, among whom 49 from Belgium.

The theme of this year "New Dimensions, New Challenges", was highly relevant as our field continues to expand into new technologies and we confront the challenges of fierce competition.

For four days, during the technical program as well as in the stimulating social events, we exchanged views and engaged in debate in an open forum. In 8 sessions, 33 high-quality papers on interesting and diverse



topics were presented to the audience. Regulatory issues, technical evolutions in the fixed and mobile network, quality matters, as well as marketing issues were addressed.

Belgium's contribution consisted of 4 papers. A Belgian Chairman (Mr. Egied Dekoster) presided over the session "Exploiting IP".

The first evening, FITCE Belgium offered a highly appreciated reception to the Belgian delegates. The pictures show the happy crowd at this and other events. And this was only one of the many entertaining activities during the congress. Receptions, dinners, visits and even singing – but yes of course, this was Ireland. The classic finale, a gala banquet with dancing, was another hit.

For the first time in the history of FITCE, on request of the Belgian Association, the list of the "Comité d'Honneur" was extended. The names of the CEOs of our supporting members were included in the list.

Congratulations to our Irish colleagues for an interesting and well organised Congress.

FITCE Europe

Comité de Direction **General Assembly**

Limerick August 26 , 2000

In line with tradition, the board of FITCE Europe convened during the congress in Limerick amongst others to prepare for the General Assembly which concludes the formal part of the congress. Here are the highlights compiled by our president José Van Ooteghem. Many of the items confirm what was already announced after the board meeting in Prague as reported in the Newsletter 5.

- FITCE-Forum publication : the traditional FITCE Forum will be replaced by a more modern newsletter. The first issue is expected mid-December.
- As a new policy, all FITCE members will receive a copy of the Congress proceedings in the near future.
- Special attention will be given to the FITCE-Europe website. Extra resources have already been assigned.
- The program and dates for the next Congress were agreed upon. The venue of the 40th Congress will be in **Barcelona**, Spain. Knowing that congresses in Spain always attract more participants and out of a concern for quality, registrations will be limited to 900! A very professional organisation has already been set up to guarantee a well organised event that will be held from Wednesday 22 until Saturday 25 August 2001.
- Election of FITCE-Officers and Board-members:
The appointment of the new Secretary-General, Bert Maes and Treasurer, Georges Devroey was confirmed during the General Assembly. José Van Ooteghem as member, and Walter Van Hemeledonck as deputy member, will represent Belgium next year on the Board. A special thanks went to Geneviève Bolle and Pierre Henin, respectively former Secretary-General and Treasurer, for their dedicated work in the past.



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FITCE Forum

Background

The Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Community (FITCE) is to relaunch its FITCE Forum publication. The new-style newsletter will be published three times a year and will be distributed to some 3500 FITCE Members, who are professionals working in the telecommunications and related industries. Along with the FITCE web site, the newsletter will act as a key means of communicating with FITCE members. The newsletter will also act as an aid to recruiting new members to FITCE.

Format

The new publication will be an 8, 12 or 16 page colour A4 newsletter.

Editorial Style and Content

The newstyle newsletter will comprise a blend of topical articles of relevance and interest to professionals working in the telecommunications industry, together with news and information about FITCE at both a European and national association level.

Both short items (of typical length 200-300/400 words) and feature-length articles (maximum length of two pages in the final printed layout—up to about 1600 words) will be included.

Call for Contributions

FITCE Forum is very much your publication. It cannot exist without your active participation. The FITCE Belgium Board therefore would like to call on you to submit articles. Candidate authors are invited to send their contributions to paul.e.nichols@bt.com, the FITCE Forum editor. Please send copy also to marc.lambert@lucent.com as the FITCE Belgium Board likes to be aware of articles being submitted. The complete Guidance Notes for Authors will be made available on our website <http://www.fitce.be>. Appendix A of the Guide lists the types of articles envisaged.

Future Activities

Lunch sessions

Two of the four lunch sessions on developments in access networks: "Migration towards Broadband Access Networks and Unbundling" have been held. Each one is presented by a Belgian Telecom Operator. Technology, economic aspects and the Unbundling of the Local Loop are systematically addressed. Belgacom (Kaj Goethals) and Versatel (Philip Mathuis) have given much appreciated insights into what those operators have done in the past and what they plan for the future. Telenet and KPN Belgium are next. This event is organized by FITCE Belgium together with the Technologisch Instituut of the K VIV. The second session on October 19 drew a crowd of 90 people. In order to

avoid organizational problems, you are well advised to register early for the remaining sessions. Please visit our website <http://www.fitce.be> and that of the TI/K VIV <http://www.ti.kviv.be/> for more information and on-line registration. The final two lunch seminars are on Thursdays 23/11/2000 and 25/1/2001.

General Assembly

The General Assembly will be held on 13 January, 2001, in the Cultural Centre "**Westrand**", Kamerijklaan in Dilbeek. All members are cordially invited. All individual members and those members who have been specifically designated by the company members have voting power. This is the program:

17.30h-18.00h	Arrival
18.00h	General Assembly For accompanying persons: light classical music with narrative
19.00h	Drink+ offered by FITCE
20.00h	New-Year concert by the chamber orchestra Camerata Con Cor(d)e conducted by Alain Roelant with a varied musical programme Rossini, Bach, Holst, Lekeu and De Jonghe.
21.30h	Reception

For the concert and the following reception there is a contribution of 500 BEF per person. Invitations will be sent shortly.

Activities 2001

The programme for 2001 will be articulated around a number of events like :

- Evening lecture by a renowned speaker
- Study-Day : full day event to be organized with TI/K VIV
- Congress in Barcelona
- Lunch sessions

Mobile internet and m-commerce will be likely subjects. Watch this space for more information as these ideas take shape.