

Fibre for 5G: a story of convergence

Leaders in fibre best placed to lead in 5G

Brussels, 21 June 2018 – Today the FTTH Council Europe organised an event on the convergence between fibre and 5G hosted by with **MEP Michal Boni** in the European Parliament. As wireless networks increasingly depend on fibre connectivity and the traditional “fixed” and “mobile” silos are breaking down, the FTTH Council Europe explores more in depth the synergies between Fibre and 5G. The FTTH Council Europe is therefore launching a novel, quantitative analysis to understand the potential cost savings which could be made by building converged, 5G-fibre networks and the cost of non-convergence, which would be ultimately paid by end-users. The results of this study will be revealed at the FTTH Conference 2019 in Amsterdam (12-14 March).

This year the FTTH Council Europe holds the Presidency of the FCGA (FTTH Councils’ Global Alliance). “Together with our colleagues from the different regions of the world (APAC, Africa, LATAM, MENA, USA), who are gathered in Brussels today, we are launching this 5G-Fibre convergence project, which aims at quantifying how much dependency on fixed fibre infrastructure the next generation of wireless networks will have. The involvement of our Sister Councils brings a huge added value to our work as we will benefit from their experiences and best practices from all over the world.” says **Ronan Kelly, President of the FTTH Council Europe.**

“It is important to understand that the prerequisite of swift 5G deployment is significant fibre densification. Therefore **the leaders in fibre today will be best placed to lead also in 5G deployments in the near and mid-term future.** Countries such as Spain, Sweden and Portugal are amongst the top performers in fibre¹ whereas other leading EU economies urgently need comprehensive fibre strategies and to step up investments in order to catch-up in the global fibre-5G race. **Today only 33% of European homes can have a fibre connection. We cannot leave 67% of European homes behind,** it is our collective responsibility now to make good use of the objectives and tools of the new Electronic Communications Code in order to inject more capital for competitive fibre investment into the European market.” adds **Erzsébet Fitori, Director General of the FTTH Council Europe.**

About the FTTH Council Europe

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

¹ Source: *FTTH/B Market Panorama Sept 2017, IDATE for FTTH Council Europe:*
http://www.ftthcouncil.eu/documents/IDATE_European_FTTH_B_panorama%20at_Sept_2017_VF.pdf

Fibre-based infrastructure is the only future-proof foundation enabling fixed and wireless gigabit networks as well as all new innovative digital technologies and services and the prerequisite for Europe's global digital competitiveness and sustainability.

The FTTH Council Europe consists of more than 150 member companies. www.ftthcouncil.eu

Contact:

Aurélie Bladocha

Director Communications & Public Affairs

aurelie.bladocha@ftthcouncil.eu

Tel: +32 478 78 61 00

