



# Forum

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Newsletter of the Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Union

May 2004

Your chance to register for the Ghent Congress, 2004. Full details inside.

## To boldly go ...on-line any time, anywhere. A vision for the future of ICT services

This intriguing title, which will be recognised by Star Trek fans, is the theme for the 2004 FITCE Congress, which is being held at the International Congress Centre in Ghent, Belgium, from 8-11 September 2004. The 'Mission' for FITCE Belgium is to make this year's Congress another outstanding success for FITCE.

Planning for this year's Congress has been going on for many months, and now the fruits of this careful planning have come to bear with another impressive congress for FITCE, its 43rd.

This edition of the *Forum* is devoted almost entirely to information about the Congress. Here you will find welcome messages from Carlos González Mateos, President of FITCE; José Van Ooteghem, President of FITCE Belgium, who has led the organisational work for the Congress; and Prof. Paul Lagasse, Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board for the Congress.

The International Technical Committee had a challenging task deciding on the final Congress programme from a record 96 proposals for papers. On page 8 you can read the 'mission report' from committee chair-

man Marc Verbruggen. On pages 4 and 5 you can examine the excellent programme that his team has devised. The programme includes invited keynote speakers from a number of senior industry players.

As has been done over the last few years, the Proceedings of the Congress will be produced in printed form to a high standard in collaboration with The Communications Network, based in the UK. All FITCE members will receive a copy of this document after the Congress. However, receiving the Proceedings by post, or reading the papers on the Web, is no substitute to participating in the Congress itself. The Congress will create a unique atmosphere for colleagues from across the European ICT industry to discuss the issues raised at the Congress. Pages 6 and 7 include the registration form for the Congress and all details about registration fees and booking hotels.

Throughout its history, Ghent has always been a gateway to the world and has played an active part on the international scene. With its numerous shops, restaurants, museums and places of historic interest, Ghent is an ideal place for delegates to spend some time. The familiar Ghent skyline comprising the three towers of St Nicholas' Church, the Belfry with its bell tower and St Bavo's cathedral form the basis for the logo



Image of Ghent (courtesy Tourism Flanders)

designed for the Congress. Delegates may consider bringing their partners, who will also have the opportunity to enjoy the Congress partner programme, which includes a guided tour of the city, and visits to the tapestries of Oudenaarde and Bruges. Delegates and their partners will also enjoy a closing Gala Dinner at the Handelsbeurs.

So, there is much in store for visitors to Congress 2004. Don't miss this unique opportunity.

International Congress Centre, Ghent: venue for the 43rd FITCE Congress, September 2004



### FITCE Forum

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#### Editor:

Paul Nichols

Tel: +44 20 8303 3111

Email: forum@fitce.org

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For latest Congress information, visit [www.fitce.org](http://www.fitce.org)



## Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Union —Forum for European ICT professionals

### 43<sup>rd</sup> FITCE Congress 8–11 September 2004, Ghent, Belgium

under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Filip

**Congress Address:**  
**International Congress Centre Ghent (ICC)**  
**Citadelpark – Ghent, Belgium**

The 43rd FITCE Congress is organised in cooperation with Agoria and FITCE Luxembourg.



## MESSAGES OF WELCOME

### Letter from the President of FITCE



For over forty years, the annual gathering of FITCE members for the European Telecommunications Congress has been the highlight of the organisation's activities. Each National Association pretty much leads its own life for most of the year but come Congress time, they all flock together for a big feast. Competitors become colleagues, colleagues friends and all join in celebrating one more year of greatness in telecommunications. Of course we all know that we have some rather gloomy years behind us and the signs of restoration are still rather timid. But all the while progress in the labs and strategising in the board rooms has been going on at a steady pace.

ICT professionals know that every year, for a few days, somewhere there is a place where collaboration and understanding are the prevailing sentiments inspiring to make the world a better place to live. This year,

that place is the city of Ghent where, thanks to FITCE, many professionals will meet and collaborate in the conviction that more (tele)communication connects people in an ever tighter global network, fostering peace and blunting confrontation.

In its own modest way, civilisation is what FITCE is about, and I sincerely thank our Belgian friends for allowing us once more to meet and enjoy that precious good. This year's Congress again promises to be a top event for our association.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in the beautiful city of Ghent. Make your stay in Ghent an unforgettable one!

**Carlos González Mateos**  
President FITCE

### Letter from the President of FITCE Belgium



In over 40 years of FITCE's existence, Belgium has always played a major role in its development, hosting the annual European Telecommunications Congress, also called the European International Telecommunications Days, in Brussels (1967 and 1973), Liège (1980) and Antwerp (1993). Now, for the fifth time in our long history, we are delighted to welcome FITCE members, along with other ICT professionals, to the 43rd Congress.

The venue chosen for the event is the easily accessible city of Ghent, which boasts a proud cultural heritage dating back to the Middle Ages. As Belgium's third largest city, Ghent combines an impressive past with a vibrant present as a key industrial, commercial, cultural and educational centre in Flanders. Indeed, today it ranks among the five most thriving European cities, making it a really interesting place to stay for business or leisure.

FITCE Congresses differ traditionally from other congresses by the relatively low admission fee, making it accessible to a wide audience. For this year's Congress, this has been made possible by partnering with the ICT industry and Ghent University, and by support from the government, Ghent City Council, AGORIA — the multisector federation of the technology industry—and the FITCE association of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. We would like to extend warm thanks to all those contributors.

Eleven years ago, our country organised the yearly FITCE summit in Antwerp. Since then, we have witnessed dramatic changes in the ICT world, and the telecommunications sector is now operating in a totally new and highly competitive environment.

For many years, the telecom industry has been dreaming of new broadband services,

2 → hoping for a real breakthrough. Today, thanks to advanced technologies, both in the wired and wireless networks, the dream is coming true. So it is not surprising that the Congress's main focus is on 'broadband services for fixed and mobile'. The Congress's motto is of course a reference to the popular SF-epic Star Trek, suggesting that advanced and futuristic applications are no longer science fiction.

The various topics will be approached from multiple angles: vision, technology, infrastructure, services and applications, as well as marketing and socio-economic aspects. The participants will not only be offered high-quality presentations, but will also have the opportunity to see demonstrations of state-of-the-art technologies and meet colleagues from all over Europe.

The year 2004 will be remarkable in many respects due to the expansion of the European Union with 10

additional countries, some of which are already members of FITCE while others have expressed an interest or are in the process of joining. We would like to extend a special invitation to them. Those four days will once more present a unique opportunity for an intense exchange of opinions, ideas, experiences, information about new trends, technologies and applications. And in line with the more than 40 years of tradition, let's not forget the many networking opportunities, presented by the excellent social and cultural programme both for delegates and their partners.

FITCE Belgium is looking forward to meeting you in Ghent in September.

**José Van Ooteghem**  
President FITCE Belgium

## Letter from the Head of the Department of Information Technology, Ghent University, Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board



We are proud to host the 43rd FITCE European Telecommunications Congress in Ghent and to welcome telecommunication experts from all over Europe. Ghent, a city at the confluence of the rivers Schelde and Leie, was famous in the middle ages for its trade in luxury woolen cloth. The medieval centre with its beautiful St-Bavo's Cathedral, Belfry, Town Hall, Castle of the Counts and many other nice buildings will remind you of this wealthy period. Today, Ghent is the core city of a metropolitan area of more than 500 000 inhabitants and plays a central role in industry and higher education in Flanders.

Ghent University, with its 25000 students and 5500 staff members has obtained international recognition in several research fields (medical, bio-technology, engineering, ...). In the field of telecommunications, the Department of Information Technology is playing a leading role in

research focused on physical, network and application layer aspects. The department is collaborating with many major European telecom vendors, operators and research institutes in areas including personal networks, broadband access and home networks, mobile multimedia networks and applications, photonic networks, service management and distributed software technologies.

It was a pleasure to contribute to the paper selection leading to an excellent technical program for this widely recognized conference. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Ghent and to make 'To boldly go ... online anytime, anywhere' a reality.

**Prof. Paul Lagasse**  
Head of the Department of Information Technology,  
Ghent University,  
Chairman of the Technical Advisory Board

### Congress 2004 Partners

The organising committee would like to express its sincere thanks to the partner organisation. Without their support and collaboration, the organisation of the 2004 Congress would not have been possible.

#### Platinum Partners



#### Gold Partners



#### Silver Partners



# FITCE Congress 2004

## 8–11 September 2004, Ghent, Belgium

### ADVANCE PROGRAMME

#### Wednesday, 8 September 2004

- 09.00–10.30 Registration  
Welcome-coffee
- 10.30–12.00 **Opening Ceremony**  
Speeches by:  
José Van Ooteghem, *President of FITCE Belgium, President of the Congress*  
Carlos González Mateos, *President of FITCE Europe*  
Frank Beke, *Mayor of the city of Ghent*  
Fientje Moerman, *Minister for Economy, Energy, Foreign Trade and Science Policy*  
Erkki Liikanen, *EU-Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society*
- 12.00–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00–15.30 **Session 1: Vision Towards 2010**, Chair: Marc Verbruggen, *ZMM, Belgium*
- 1.1 **Keynote speech:** Broadband for all: Belgian initiatives in the framework of eEUROPE — Prof. Paul Lagasse, *Head of the Department of Information Technology, Ghent University*
- 1.2 **Keynote speech:** Making High Speed Services a Reality — Scott Alcott, *President Wireline Business Unit, Belgacom*
- 1.3 **Keynote speech:** How to Stimulate Innovation? — Prof. Arnoud De Meyer, *The Akzo Nobel Fellow of Strategic Management, Professor of Technology Management and Asian Business and Comparative Management, INSEAD Deputy Dean, Dean of Administration*
- 1.4 **Keynote speech:** First experiences with the new Regulatory Framework in the Belgian Institute for Post and Telecommunications, the Independent Regulators Group and the European Regulators Group — Eric Van Heesvelde, *Chairman of the Council, BIPT, the Belgian regulatory body for postal services and telecommunication*
- 15.30–16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00–17.30 **Session 2: iDTV Vehicle to the Future**, Chair: Wim van der Bijl, *Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, The Netherlands*
- 2.1 Future Residential Services — lessons from the past, models for the future — Barry Reynolds, *eircom, Ireland*
- 2.2 Dynamic Value Constellation for the Creation of Innovative Services via the Exploitation of Interactive Digital Television Infrastructure — Ioannis Chochliouros, *OTE, Greece*
- 2.3 AmigoTV: towards a social TV experience — Marc Godon, *Alcatel, Belgium*
- 2.4 Telecom and Video: more than a dream — Sofie De Meyer and Dominique Delcoigne, *Belgacom, Belgium*
- 2.5 Delivering Video Services over Broadband Networks — from theory to practice — Aviv Ronai and Ehud Hai, *ECI, Israel*
- 19.00–20.00 Welcome Reception — City Hall of Ghent

#### Thursday, 9 September 2004

- 09.00–10.30 **Session 3: Delivering Services to the Home**, Chair: Egied Dekoster, *Belgacom, Belgium*
- 3.1 Complementary Broadband Satellite Services — Penny Glover, *SATLYNX, Luxembourg*
- 3.2 Towards the Service Company — The 'Service Enabling Platform' as a Key Asset — Filip Vandermeulen, *Belgacom, Belgium*
- 3.3 The Intelligent Inhouse Ambient — Wolfgang Klenner, *Alcatel, Germany*
- 3.4 Multimedia Services: Home Networking and Advanced User Terminals — Ovidio Michelangeli and Alberto Mittoni, *WIND, Italy*
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–12.30 **Session 4: Advanced Mobile Developments**, Chair: Hans-Otto Ehmke, *T-Mobile Deutschland, Germany*
- 4.1 Delivering True Ubiquity — Achieving Universal Broadband Coverage — Chris Gilbert, *IPWireless, United Kingdom*
- 4.2 Perspectives and Potential for Innovative ICT In-Vehicle Services, supporting e-Safety options in the European Union — George Lalopoulos and Ioannis Chochliouros, *OTE, Greece*
- 4.3 Generating Revenues for Wireless Carriers with Mobile Instant Messaging — Tal Kuttner, *Comverse, United Kingdom*
- 4.4 An Overview of Mobile Ad Hoc Networks: Applications and Challenges — Jeroen Hoebeke, *Ghent University, Belgium*
- 4.5 Free-Space Optics Technology Employed in an UMTS Release 4 Bearer Independent Core Network — Ionut Bibac, *Nortel Networks, France*
- 12.30–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00–15.30 **Session 5: Mobile User Needs**, Chair: Peter Schneider, *T-Mobile Deutschland, Germany*
- 5.1 **Keynote speech:** to be defined
- 5.2 The Non-Stimulated Customer Needs — Jos Gerrese, *Ganesh Consult, The Netherlands*
- 5.3 Identification of Remaining Barriers to widespread use of Mobile Internet in Europe. Implications from Competition Analysis of the Mobile Market — Sergio Ramos, *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain*
- 5.4 Building Blocks of Comprehensive Location Based Services to Exploit the Strength of Supplementary Business Partners — Martin Mohs, *T-Mobile Deutschland, Germany*
- 15.30–16.00 Coffee break

- 16.00–17.30 **Session 6: Fixed Mobile Convergence; here at last?** Chair: Prof. Andy Valdar, *University College London, United Kingdom*
- 6.1 4G Networks: Global Vision, Reference Architecture and Applications — César Briso-Rodríguez, *Ericsson, Spain*
  - 6.2 Mobile Convergence with Landline/Intelligence — Martyn Gibbs, *BT, United Kingdom*
  - 6.3 Securing 3G-WLAN interworking — Marc Blommaert, *Siemens, Belgium*
  - 6.4 A Four-Tiered Hierarchy in a Converged Fixed-Mobile Architecture Enabling Personal Networks — Nico Baken, *KPN, and Ramira Hekmat, TU Delft, The Netherlands*
  - 6.5 Deploying WiMAX certified Broadband Wireless Access Systems — Cristian Patachia, *University Politehnica, Rumania*
- 19.30–23.00 Get-together at the Castle of the Counts

### Friday, 10 September 2004

- 09.00–10.30 **Session 7: Running the Network**, Chair: Prof. Leo Van Biesen, *Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium*
- 7.1 How will Ethernet based Services increase Service Provider profits — Bart Vandevelde, *Cisco Systems, Belgium*
  - 7.2 ASTN Function for Transport Service Enhancement — Giovanni Fiaschi, *Marconi, Italy*
  - 7.3 Integrated Service Management with OSS/J — Roland Volk, *IP VALUE, Germany*
  - 7.4 The use of Optical Connectors in the Outside Plant — Daniel Daems, *Tyco Electronics, Belgium*
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–12.30 **Session 8: Delivering Services to the Office**, Chair: Prof. Claudio Feijóo, *Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain*
- 8.1 **Keynote speech:** Value Added Services in a Broadband World — Alan Mottram, *President, Fixed Solutions Division, Alcatel*
  - 8.2 Applications and Services for the Corporate Enterprise Market — Matthew Finnie, *Interoute, United Kingdom*
  - 8.3 IP Telephony from a Corporate Perspective — Edwin Ronacher and Peter Haas, *aphona Entwicklungs- und Vertriebs-GmbH, Austria*
  - 8.4 Softswitches and the Death of the PABX — also In Memoriam of the Last/Golden Mile — Gery Pollet, *Aquanta, Belgium*
  - 8.5 New Video Services for the Telecom Industry — Robert Wu, *Barco, Belgium*
- 12.30–14.00 Lunch
- 14.00–15.30 **Session 9: Services of the Future Network**, Chair: Panagiotis Dallas, *INTRACOM, Greece*
- 9.1 **Keynote speech:** Breaking the barriers between home, enterprise and carriers — Challenges of Carriers with respect to upcoming expectations of the Market — Alexander Dewulf, *Vice President IC, Enterprise Communications/Corporate Accounts, Member of the Board, Information and Communications, Siemens Belgium*
  - 9.2 Unified Personal Services: Market Drivers and Technologies — Marc Roelands, *Siemens, Belgium*
  - 9.3 Content Delivery Networks — Wim van der Bijl, *Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, The Netherlands*
  - 9.4 Grid Computing: the next Network Challenge — Bart Dhoedt, *Ghent University, Belgium*
- 15.30–16.00 Coffee break
- 16.00–17.30 **Session 10: Future Network Challenges**, Chair: Giulio Miceli, *Marconi, Italy*
- 10.1 **Keynote speech:** Evolving Architectures and Technologies to address Operators' NGN Challenges — Phil Healy, *Network Strategy Lead, Chief Technology Office, Marconi*
  - 10.2 eCommerce Business Models for eMusic over Broadband — Rogelio Segovia, *European Commission, DG INFSO, Spain*
  - 10.3 Using ITU-T X.805 for Comprehensive Network Security Assessment and Planning — Yannick Bourque, *Lucent Technologies, Belgium*
  - 10.4 Enabling Flexible Working with Hybrid IP VPNs — Tim Hubbard, *Nortel, United Kingdom*
  - 10.5 Broadband: why aren't people more demanding? — Dave Simpson, *Easynet, United Kingdom*
- 18.00–20.00 Visit to the International Fair of Gent. Theme: 'Broadband Technology in Daily Life' (to be confirmed)

### Saturday, 11 September 2004

- 09.00–10.30 **round-table: Highlights reviewed — Capturing the key messages**  
Chair: Prof. Piet Demeester, *Chairman Technical Working Group, Ghent University, Belgium*. Members: *Congress session chairmen*.
- 10.30–11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00–12.30 **General Assembly for FITCE members**
- 19.30– Gala Dinner at the Handelsbeurs

### Partner Programme

#### Wednesday, 8 September 2004

- 09.00-10.30 Registration  
Welcome-coffee
- 10.30-12.00 Opening Ceremony
- 12.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-16.30 Guided visit to Ghent
- 19.00-20.00 Welcome Reception — City Hall of Ghent

#### Thursday, 9 September 2004

- 09.00-17.00 Tapestries of Oudenaarde (lunch included)
- 19.30-23.00 Get-together at the Castle of the Counts

#### Friday, 10 September 2004

- 09.00-17.00 Medieval Splendours of Bruges(lunch included)
- 18.00-20.00 Visit to the International Fair of Gent. Theme: 'Broadband Technology in Daily Life' (to be confirmed)

#### Saturday, 11 September 2004

- 19.30– Gala Dinner at the Handelsbeurs

### CONGRESS CONTACTS

#### Congress Secretariat

Semico n.v.  
Seminar and Congress Organisation  
Korte Meer 16  
B-9000 Gent, Belgium  
Tel. +32 9 233 86 60  
Fax +32 9 233 85 97  
Email: fitce@semico.be

#### Organising Committee

v.z.w. FITCE Belgium a.s.b.l.  
Diamant Building  
Boulevard Auguste Reyerslaan 80  
B-1030 Brussels, Belgium  
Email: Ghent2004@fitce.be  
www.fitce.be

# FITCE Congress 2004

## 8–11 September 2004, Ghent, Belgium

# REGISTRATION FORM

*(can be downloaded from [www.fitce.org/Ghent/index.htm](http://www.fitce.org/Ghent/index.htm))*

Please return this form to:  
Semico nv, FITCE, Korte Meer 16, Belgium - 9000 Ghent  
Fax: +32 9 233 85 97 — Email: [fitce@semico.be](mailto:fitce@semico.be)



<b>Participant</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> Prof.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
Family Name:				First Name:			
Employment Profile:				Age:			
Company/Institution:				VAT number:			
P.O. Box/Street Address:							
Zip Code and City:				Country:			
Telephone:			Fax:		Email:		
FITCE Member		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
Accompanying Person(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Prof.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
Family Name:				First Name:			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Prof.	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
Family Name:				First Name:			

Section A: Registration	(Prices in euro, VAT 21% included)			Euro
	Paid before 30 June 2004 (price/person)	Paid after 30 June 2004 (price/person)	Number of persons	
<b>Delegate</b>				
FITCE Member	350	450	x ....	
FITCE Non-Member	700	900	x ....	
<b>One-day registration Delegate</b>				
FITCE Member	200	250	x ....	
FITCE Non-Member	400	500	x ....	
<b>Student*</b>				
Full registration Student*	250	300	x ....	
One-day registration Student*	150	200	x ....	
<b>Accompanying Person</b>				
FITCE Member	150	200	x ....	
FITCE Non-Member	300	400	x ....	
<b>Total Section A</b>				

\* Those registering as students must attach proof of student status to the registration form

Section B: Social Programme	(Prices in euro, VAT 21% included)		
	Date	price/person	N° persons
Welcome Reception	8 September	incl.	
Get-together Castle of the Counts	9 September	incl.	
Fair: Broadband Technology in Daily Life	10 September	incl.	
Gala Dinner (Handelsbeurs)	11 September	incl.	

Section C: Partner Programme	(Prices in euro, VAT 21% included)		
	Date	price/person	N° persons
Guided visit Ghent	8 September	incl.	
Oudenaarde with tapestries	9 September	incl.	
Medieval Splendours of Bruges	10 September	incl.	

Section D: Hotel Accommodation			(Prices in euro, breakfast, taxes and VAT included)	
Arrival date .... / ....	Departure date .... / ....		N° nights:	
Type of rooms — please tick (✓)	<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Double			
	Rate (Euro)		N° nights	Payment
<b>Category</b>	<b>Single</b>	<b>Double</b>		
★★★★ Luxe				
Sofitel Ghent	230	254		
NH Ghent Hotel	150	160		
★★★★				
Holiday Inn UZ	145	158		
Best Western Hotel Chamade*	107	125		
★★★				
Ghent River Hotel	162	198		
Gravensteen Ghent	152	190		
Novotel Ghent	157	171		
Poortackere	90	115		
Ibis Cathedral	98	108		
Ibis Opera	96	106		
New Carlton*	68	79		
Ascona Hotel*	66	79		
* At walking distance from ICC	<b>Total Section D</b>			
Please mention your second-choice hotel:				

No confirmation can be supplied unless we receive your payment for the hotel.

Please send me information about Youth Hostel and Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

Section E: Total Payment		(in euro, VAT included)
<b>Section A to D</b>	<b>Total Payment:</b>	

Having signed below, I herewith confirm that I have read and am fully aware of the cancellation conditions stipulated in the announcement (see panel)

Date: ..... Signature: .....

All payments should be made in Euros and made out to Semico n.v., attn. FITCE 2004. Mark your payment with your name. Please indicate which of the following means of payment you have used — please tick (✓).

Bank Transfer: KBC, Dorp 35, 9810 Nazareth, Belgium, account number 737-0091530-05  
IBAN: BE96 7370 0915 3005 BIC: KREDBEBB

Visa  American Express  Eurocard/Mastercard

Cardholder Name: ..... Expiry Date: .....

Card Number: .....

Date: ..... Card holder's signature: .....

I hereby authorise Semico to debit this credit card account for the total amount due. I also give consent to Semico debiting or crediting my credit card account of any subsequent change(s) to the items booked.

Emergency Information (Persons(s) to contact in the event of any emergency)	
Contact Name(s):	
Email::	
Fax:	Phone:
(Country code + area code + number)	

**Extra fees (21% VAT included)**  
 Extra copy of Proceedings (at registration desk only): €50  
 Cancellation until 30.06.2004: Free of charge  
 Cancellation after 30.06.2004 (fee per person): €100  
 Change of name (at registration desk only): €20

**Registration fee for delegates includes:**

- Attendance to all conference sessions
- Daily coffee breaks and work lunch
- Attendance to Congress social events
- Proceedings

**Registration fee for accompanying persons includes:**

- Attendance to Congress opening session
- Excursions mentioned in the accompanying persons programme
- Attendance to Congress social events

**Registration fee for students includes:**

- Attendance to all conference sessions
- Daily coffee breaks and work lunch
- One-year membership of FITCE Belgium

**One day registration fee includes:**

- Same content but only for the day
- Proceedings
- Social event if room available

**On-site registration** is offered during the Congress at the registration desk. On-site registration fees are available at [www.fitce.org/Ghent/index.htm](http://www.fitce.org/Ghent/index.htm)

## Mission accomplished!

### Ghent 2004 International Paper Selection Committee meeting

On Friday 5 March the International Technical Committee had its Technical Paper Selection meeting in Ghent.

Hosted by the Ghent University the participants enjoyed the facilities of 't Pand, a beautiful ancient cloister adapted to today's standards for conference facilities.

The task this committee faces is increasing from year to year as the number of paper abstracts once more beat the record: this year we received 96 abstracts of very high quality! On behalf of the Technical Committee we would like to express our appreciation for the effort put in by authors all over the globe!

The difficult task to select 45 papers was in the hands of Piet Demeester (Belgium), Egied Dekoster (Belgium), Hans-Otto Ehmke (Germany), Andy Valdar (UK), Wim van der Bijl (The Netherlands) and Marc Verbruggen (Belgium).

All paper abstracts were evaluated by the individual committee members on their merits with respect to novelty, clearness, structure and fit to the Congress topics and layout.

The Committee then had to map the selected papers into 10 balanced sessions covering the Congress themes (Mobility, Corporate and Carrier Services, Residential Services) from the various angles (Vision, Technology/Infrastructure, Services/Applications, Marketing/Socio-Economics/Legal).

The Paper Selection Committee looks forward to meeting all of you at the Congress and 'eat the pudding'!

**Marc Verbruggen**, Chairman International Technical Committee



Marc Verbruggen



*Ghent Papers Selection Committee (left-right): Egied Dekoster, Piet Demeester, Wim van der Bijl, Hans-Otto Ehmke and Andy Valdar. Chairman Marc Verbruggen was behind the camera!*

## Regulation in focus

FITCE Members were among the presenters at a colloquium entitled 'The Role of Communications Regulation in the Digital Age' staged recently by The Communications Network in conjunction with FITCE UK in the historic auditorium of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London.

The two members were Peter Walker, Senior Adviser, Technology Strategy, Ofcom, and President of FITCE UK, who discussed the new regulatory regime in the UK and the new European framework in his presentation entitled 'New Regulator, New Regulation', and Sergio Ramos, Pre-Accession Advisor for the European Union in Latvia, who spoke about 'New Perspectives on Broadband and Public Policies'. The other speakers were Ian Morfett, BT; Julian Keeley, O<sub>2</sub>; and Dave Simpson, Easynet Group plc.

The event, chaired by FITCE member John Griffiths, from Queen Mary, University London, attracted approaching 200 people.

*Opposite: (left-right) John Griffiths, Peter Walker, and Sergio Ramos*



## Priority ICT areas under the Irish Presidency of the European Union

The primary aim of the Irish Presidency will be to focus the Lisbon agenda on key priorities for 2004 and give new impetus to achieving the 2010 goals. The Irish Presidency Programme identifies four priority objectives. These are:

- A successful enlargement of the EU to include 10 new Member States.
- Working Together for Economic Growth, with emphasis on pursuing the Lisbon Strategy to make Europe the most competitive economy in the world.
- A Safer Union, by developing the Union as an Area of Freedom, Security and Justice.
- Global Engagement with the Outside World. The EU will work towards the promotion of a fairer, peaceful and more secure world.

The Irish Presidency sees the mid-term review of the eEurope 2005 Action Plan, to be undertaken during the first half of 2004, as affording the opportunity to realign the eEurope strategy, taking cognisance of the vital role played by broadband in fostering an inclusive Information Society for all, as well as a vibrant knowledge economy. In addition to evaluating progress, this review will provide a mechanism to adjust the Action Plan, where necessary, to take account of EU enlargement, technological advances, the evolving nature of the Information Society (IS) agenda, and new financial models to fund IS initiatives. It is envisaged that any proposed adjustments to eEurope 2005 will be considered by the June 2004 European Council.

Another key priority for the Irish Presidency will be to maintain the political debate on the Situation in the Electronic Communications Sector.

The Irish Presidency will also seek to:

- support non-regulatory initiatives for Internet safety by progressing the 'Safer Internet' action plan dossier (the successor to the current Safer Internet programme);
- facilitate the development, use and distribution of European digital content on global networks and promoting linguistic diversity in the Information Society by progressing the 'eContent' dossier (the successor to the current eContent programme);
- further stimulate the debate on eGovernment by hosting an international conference in Dublin; and hold discussions on the follow-up to the World Radio Conference, organised by the ITU in Geneva from 9 June to 4 July 2003.

**Filip Geerts**  
Secretary General FITCE

## Editor's note

We are always pleased to receive contributions of articles to the *Forum*. Articles can be on any topic of interest to ICT professionals, they do not need to be very long, but they should be illustrated wherever possible. Send your articles to the editor Paul Nichols at [forum@fitce.org](mailto:forum@fitce.org).