

BROADBAND FLASH

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AGREEMENT ON EU TELECOMS REFORM PACKAGE

Law enforcement agencies will be able to cut off the connections of Internet users suspected of illegally downloading films and music, lawmakers and EU ministers agreed in the small hours of this morning (5 November).

A committee made up of EU government representatives, members of the European Parliament and the European Commission ironed out differences over the bill between the three EU bodies, paving the way for the final rubber-stamping

of the EU's telecoms package. EU lawmakers sent the legislation back to the Council in May amid concerns that the proposed bill would not adequately protect the rights of Internet users.

The telecoms package has been the subject of vehement debate between the Parliament and the Council. The endless discussions focused on Amendment 138, which stresses the need for "prior ruling by the judicial authorities" for those suspected of illegal downloading.

The most recent text from the Parliament made substantial concessions to the Council's thinking and deleted references to a "prior" ruling at a "judicial authority".

The text now reads: "A prior, fair and impartial procedure



Photo: Sandra Baqirjazid/Regeringskansliet

shall be guaranteed, including the right to be heard of the person or persons concerned, subject to the need for appropriate conditions and procedural arrangements in duly substantiated cases of urgency in conformity with European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The right to an effective and timely judicial review shall be guaranteed."

The proposed reform is supposed to beef up consumers' contractual rights and create a pan-EU supervisory body to improve how the 27-nation bloc's telecoms rules are applied so no operator can be shielded from competition.

"I am very happy that we now



made an agreement on the Telecoms package. The agreement strenghtens the competitiveness and enhances the

consumer protection in Europe which will lead to more, better and less expensive broadband services and a substantially stronger protection for all internet users in Europe", says Sweden's Minister for Communications Åsa Torstensson, Chair of the Council.

IN THIS ISSUE ...

| | |
|---|-----|
| Agreement on EU Telecoms Reform Package | 1 |
| Broadband News | 2 |
| The Manchester Match: Stedenlink and DC10plus lightening the future | 3/4 |
| Success factors for Financing Broadband Infrastructure in Europe | 5 |
| New Entries on the Portal | 6 |
| Broadband Events | 7 |
| EBP Background Information | 8 |

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BROADBAND NEWS

Issue 15, November 2009

Gateshead gets superfast broadband

Gateshead Council has deployed a high speed broadband fibre network offering its business quarter speeds of up to 10Gb per second.

The network, known as G-ti, will be open access so any service provider can deliver any application to users. Gateshead Council hopes the speed and quality of the network will bring businesses to the area and encourage innovative start-ups.

Council lead Mick Henry said: "Gateshead Council is delighted to be at the forefront of broadband technology and leading the way by being the first local authority to go live with a project like this."

The Council envisages businesses offering services such as video conferencing, video on demand, streaming media, data storage, disaster recovery and image processing could be interested.

The network was developed in partnership with Alcatel-Lucent and the Community Broadband Network which helps develop local broadband schemes.

"G-ti is a great project, adding to the growing patchwork of next generation broadband initiatives around the country," said Malcolm Corbett, chief executive of the Community Broadband Network.

The government estimates that up to a third of the country does not have access to super fast broadband and is instigating a 50p levy on phone bills to provide universal coverage.

The Conservatives have promised to abolish the levy should they win power next year.

A number of local projects have sprung up to fill the market gap in the third of homes and business not currently being reached, including projects in Bournemouth, Dundee and Northampton.

EU to recommend radio spectrum for mobile broadband

The European Commission wants to ensure that radio frequency freed up by switching from analogue to digital television will be used for wireless broadband, according to a draft document seen by Dow Jones Newswires Thursday.

To facilitate the new usage of the frequency, the commission wants European Union countries to leave the specific 790 to 862 megahertz band free of broadcasting, so it can be used for mobile broadband and other communication services, according to the draft recommendations.

The commission is set to adopt the recommendation toward the end of next week, according to a person familiar with the issue. Commission recommendations aren't legally binding, but set a strong precedent for member states to follow.

While most of Europe will have made the digital switch-over by 2012, the commission is worried some E.U. countries are lagging, which would put a dampener on the whole process. The commission will therefore also call for tardy member states to conclude the switch-off from analog TV by the beginning of 2012 at the latest, according to the draft.

The commission says that by allocating part of the radio spectrum to wireless broadband services, Europe can benefit from the analog switch-over by an additional EUR20 billion to EUR50 billion over 15 years.

Europe suffers from a diverging broadcasting map, according to telecom's operators that are keen to step in to take up the freed spectrum. Countries like Italy and Spain have a multitude of regional television stations, and a worry remains that they could be tempted to hand the freed up spectrum over to more regional broadcasting.

Commission endorses French access rules on fibre in-building wiring

The French telecoms regulator, ARCEP, sets out the terms and conditions for access to inhouse fibre wiring in France. The proposed access regulation is to be imposed simultaneously on all operators rolling out fibre lines into the homes of consumers, regardless of whether these operators - also referred to as in-building operators - have significant market power or not.

ARCEP intends to oblige all in-building operators to provide access to its in-building fibre network to alternative operators. This way, French consumers will be able to choose between several competing providers of high speed internet connections. For the very densely populated areas (defined by ARCEP in the draft decision as those areas where it is economically most profitable for operators to roll-out their fibre networks into the homes),

ARCEP also obliges any in-building operator to meet reasonable requests from alternative operators to roll-out extra, fibre lines on condition that the requesting operator is willing to co-invest. Additionally, ARCEP defines where the in-building fibre connection point must be located.

THIS MONTH BROADBAND PROJECT

Issue 15, November 2009

NEWSLETTER

The Manchester Match: Dutch Stedenlink and British DC10plus network lighting the future

In October, during the annual Stedenlink study trip, two city networks with the mutual aim of promoting and developing the Information Society, met in Manchester: STEDENLINK and DC 10Plus.



Stedenlink (www.stedenlink.nl), a Dutch foundation of municipalities and provinces, that shares the view that,

like drinking water and energy, broadband is an essential prerequisite for a competitive local, regional or (trans)national economy. That broadband 2.0 requires "open" next generation fibre optic access networks be built as soon as possible. Stedenlink cities represent 6 million of a total of 16 million Dutch citizens.



Digital Challenge 10plus Network www.dc10plus.net) aims to promote social, economic, environmental and better service delivery through the use of

technology. It is a collaborative network of local authorities and their partners dedicated to creating partnerships, sharing good practice and developing new initiatives. The DC10plus network has over 2000 subscribers including public, private and third sector organisations from across England.

Stedenlink not only promotes the roll out and deployment of open networks, and the implementation of broadband services, they also lobby at the European level. In June, Stedenlink submitted comments to the European commission, on the proposed "Community guidelines for the application of State Aid Rules in relation to rapid deployment of broadband networks".

The Stedenlink message is clear: **no Information Society without true broadband services, no true broadband services without Next Generation Access Networks (NGA's), no rapid roll out of these networks without a role for cities.** For some areas it may be the case that state aid may be a good intervention. We quote from the comments to the Commission (courtesy of Houthoff Buruma, legal expert J. Doeleman).

Top or not?

Why is the Netherlands, a Member State that has 95% coverage (homes passed) by both copper and cable, not satisfied being in the top 3 of Broadband Coun-

tries?

It should be noted that the competing "first generation" access networks have been the result of historical accident, rather than design. In addition, both networks have been built by public authorities. Ensuring competition on and between existing networks is an entirely different challenge than ensuring the roll-out of new 'next generation' access networks enabling broadband 2.0, meaning networks allowing for symmetrical download and upload speeds (far) in excess of 100 Mbps that are always available to every subscriber, simultaneously'. Only Open Access fibre optics Networks are future proof NGAs. And that's what we call Broadband.

Never before has the privatised eCommunications sector been faced with a paradigm shift, requiring entirely new access networks to be built. The risk of 're-monopolisation' has been rightly highlighted by many commentators, but the unique opportunity to shape the conditions for a truly welfare enhancing competition has not been given the at-

tention it deserves. Stedenlink calls upon the Commission to use its tremendous reservoir of economic expertise, regulatory know-how and intellectual power to focus on precisely that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The only way for (local) government in the Netherlands to warrant that NGA's will be built at all, and that NGA's will be designed and operated as open networks, is to build them themselves, either with (Public Private Partnership, 'PPP') or without private partners, and either with or without State aid.

An introduction on the issues at stake, very useful for (government) Broadband Beginners and professionals, plus four business models to achieve NGAs, are explained in the letter to the commission. The full comments can be found at: (http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2009_broadband_guidelines/stichting_stedenlink_en.pdf).

The DC10plus network cites Next Generation Connectivity,

(Continued on page 4)

THIS MONTH BROADBAND EVENT

Issue 15, November 2009



Stedenlink and DC10plus network meeting in Manchester

(Continued from page 3)

as one of their seven core workstreams as they work towards full inclusion. The city of Manchester is coordinating the work on NGAs with the aim of demonstrating a compelling case for public intervention to develop NGA networks based on Fibre (to the Premises - FttP) and advanced wireless based on local/regional initiatives. The main focus of Manchester's work is developing a Living Lab model to act as a test bed, and providing the core elements of the business case for NGA innovation within local/regional initiatives.

As part of the network activities, both Stedenlink and DC10plus will continue the exchange and sharing of experience and expertise both from within their own members and external initiatives in the respective countries and the rest of the EU. Looking for scalable and transferable successes in order to accelerate the growth and take up of next generation connectivity.

In Manchester, both the DC10plus and Stedenlink networks decided to partner not only for the exchange of good practice, but also on next generation connectivity policy issues, such as state aid, procurement and regulatory frameworks. The two networks will also partner with the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum (www.eurocities.eu).

Stedenlink member The Hague is currently the coordinator for the Eurocities Working Group on Broadband, the group is building a policy paper to be issued later this year.

We will keep you posted on this issue!

Contact Eric Helder, president of Stedenlink:

info@stedenlink.nl

Contact Stephen Dodson, director of DC10plus:

stephen.dodson@dc10plus.net

Watch the video!



A video explaining the objectives and activities of Stedenlink, not only on the necessity of fibre optics but also on the services, in English, can be found at the homepage of www.stedenlink.nl.



A video about the vision of the DC10plus network, with lots of examples and figures, can be found at: www.dc10plus.net/resources/Report459. On the website, there are many very useful articles and documents in English! You can also follow the DC10plus network on Twitter @dc10plusnetwork.

NEWSLETTER

Success factors for Financing Broadband Infrastructure in Europe

“Member states need both public funding and new cooperation models for Broadband projects between private and public stakeholders to reach 100% broadband coverage in Europe”, was one of the outcomes of the conference **How to Finance Broadband Infrastructure in Europe** which took place on October 26th and 27th 2009 in Berlin, organised by the European Academy for Taxes, Economics & Law.

Public and private practitioners and experts on broadband from 20 European countries were discussing options and solutions for financing broadband in Europe. Not only public authorities involved in broadband initiatives were present, but also representatives of private telecom companies, technology providers and consultants.

Mr. Norbert Gaal from the European Commission, DG Competition, opened the discussion on the future and opportunities of financing broadband in Europe. In the long run the Broadband Guidelines (adopted in September 2009) shall support accelerating broadband/NGA investment in Europe. One of the most important **challenges** of financing broadband from public money is the question of, **how to determine the time frame of a 3 years period for NGA investment**, which is one of the requirements for public service compensation.

Difficulties and practical experiences with the implementation of European coverage policy at national level were presented by Frank Krüger - Senior Advisor in Broadband Future Unit from the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. Germany did not give the bounding guidelines for the local and national government in which broadband technology they should invest. This policy is part of the belief that both pri-

vate and public investors should be free to decide about it. This opened a discussion on the **liability of public authorities and on the issue of how to ensure efficient spending of public money**.

The challenges of traditional investment models and advantages of alternative investment models presented in the afternoon received special attention and started an interactive discussion on alternative solutions to open access networks. The discussion concentrated on the question of **what should be done to encourage the private sector to invest and how to cooperate**.

Many participants were surprised about the **activities of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) in the field of financing broadband infrastructure projects**. The wide range of EBRD products, like debts equity and equity-linked instruments, for private and public broadband projects, were presented by Michelle Senecal De Fonseca - Director of Telecoms, Informatics and Media, EBRD. The EIB was presented as a partner for clients promoting European objectives loans for broadband projects with favourable conditions providing long-term finance.

The second day of the conference was dedicated to **best practice exchange**. Especially

the Northern Ireland broadband strategy, with an outstanding result of 100% of broadband coverage, was appreciated by the audience.

The advantages of investment in **satellite infrastructure** diverted the discussion to technology advantages and disadvantages as well as their cost.

Special interest was given to the presentation on the **Amsterdam fibre project**, which was the first project to be notified by the EC for financing a next generation broadband network.

The conference gave an excellent overview of current financing possibilities for broadband projects in Europe. Participants not only profited from the live exchange of opinions, solutions and new ideas but were also able to extend their network of cooperation partners. The conference showed that **cooperation between the public and the private sector is a key success factor for broadband projects** to reach the goal of 100% coverage in Europe.

This conference started the series of European intercreative seminars and workshops of European Academy related to Telecommunication topics. Calls for proposals for future events related to broadband are now opened and all ideas for the next annual conference can be sent to:

Ms. **Natalia Budzynska** natalia.budzynska@euroacad.eu.

THIS MONTH **NEW ENTRIES** IN THE BROADBAND PORTAL

Issue 15, November 2009

RECENTLY UPLOADED ON THE PORTAL

- France: Broadband Network in Ariège
- France: When Broadband for all becomes a Reality
- France: DORSAL project in Limousin
- Greece: Greek School Network
- Greece: Bridge Me
- Ireland: Shannon Connect
- Ireland: Model for Infrastructure Sharing: SERPANT Broadband Project
- Ireland: Cork Regional Broadband Programme
- UK: Digital Region Ltd.
- UK: Act Now—Broadband Cornwall
- Portugal: Vale de Minho Digital
- Portugal: Community Broadband Network Terra Quente Transmontana
- Portugal: Setúbal Municipal Broadband Network
- Germany: Broadband for Bargfeld-Stegen in Schleswig-Holstein
- Germany: Broadband „Modellregion Harz“
- Germany: Broadband for Brigachtal in Baden-Württemberg
- Germany: Broadband for Rothenberg in Hessen
- Austria: ARGE Fibre Waldviertel
- Bulgaria: ICT Broadband Platform for Bulgaria
- Italy: Broadband for Rural Tuscany
- Italy: Broadband Network in Sardinia
- EU27: Bande Large Européenne pour la Méditerranée
- Croatia: Broadband Muni Mesh Wireless Network
- Finland: Broadband Connections for Rural and Sparsely populated areas in Etelä-Savo Region

97 Projects uploaded

Be part of the community and upload yours as well!

Visit the EBP website to evaluate these new projects!

- Do you organize an **event related to broadband** issues?
- Have you implemented a **broadband project** in your region?
- Does your company want to **share experiences in the field of broadband**?
- Do you want to publish interesting **news on broadband** topics?

The European Broadband Portal
will support you in sharing your experiences!

[Register on-line to be part of the Broadband community!](http://www.broadband-europe.eu)

NEWSLETTER

BROADBAND EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

| DATE | PLACE | TITLE | LINK |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| 16 th -18 th November 2009 | Barcelona/ Spain | Transport Network Strategies | http://tns.optical-transmission.com/ |
| 16 th -19 th November 2009 | Montpellier/ France | DigiWorld Summit 2009 - Open Fibre: Which business model to speed up FTTH rollouts? | http://www.digiworldsummit.com/2009/pages/?all=accueil&idl=22 |
| 23 rd -24 th November 2009 | Stockholm/ Sweden | Future Internet Assembly | http://www.fi-stockholm.eu/ |
| 24 th -25 th November 2009 | Rome/ Italy | ExpoComm Italia | http://www.expocommitalia.it/ |
| 25 th November 2009 | London/ UK | Digital Convergence Summit | http://www.technosummits.com/events/2009/convergence/index.html |
| 25 th November 2009 | London/ UK | Fibre to Britain 2009 - Managing best practice fibre delivery to meet future digital demands | http://conferences.theiet.org/fibre/index.htm |
| 30 th November 2009 | Virtual Event | No Spectrum, No Problem: The potential of WiMAX on the unlicensed bands | http://telephonyonline.com/webcasts/ |
| 30 th November 2009 | Brussels/ Belgium | Implementing a European Digital Dividend Strategy | http://www.digital-dividend.eu/ |
| 1 st -2 nd December 2009 | Washington D.C./ USA | Beyond Recession – Visions for Broadband | http://www.iicom.org/ |
| 7 th -9 th December 2009 | Brussels/ Belgium | ECTA Regulatory Conference | http://www.ectaportal.com/en/ |
| 24 th -25 th February 2010 | Lisbon/ Portugal | FTTH Council Europe Conference | http://www.ftthcouncil.eu/ftth_conference/registration/?cid=623 |



UPCOMING EVENTS ON BROADBAND AT
<http://www.broadband-europe.eu/Pages/EventsList.aspx>

THE EBP BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Issue 15, November 2009

The **European Broadband Portal (EBP)** is a follow-up action of the European Commission resulting from the [Bridging the Broadband Gap](#) Conference (14-15 May 2007, Brussels), which concluded that there was a need to support public authorities in areas under-served by broadband to improve supply and conditions of supply.



The development of the EBP has been initiated by the European Commission (DG Information Society & Media) following an open Call for Tender for the supply of a "Web Portal for Exchange of Good Practice for Broadband Deployment". The project commenced in January 2008 and will last for a period of 30 months.

The project seeks to create a coherent on-line community of relevant stakeholders, providing them with the tools for effective sharing of experiences and good practices and a participatory environment for seeking common and shared solutions.

THE PROJECT TEAM



The European Regional
Information Society Association
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VISIBILITY IN NEW MEMBER STATES

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The "Broadband Flash" is published each month. You are very much invited to contribute; give us your feedback or subscribe to the Newsletter: info@broadband-europe.eu