



Bridging the Digital Divide: Ensuring High-Speed and Quality Internet in Europe Beyond 2020

19th January 2016
Brussels

09:15 *Registration and Morning Refreshments*

10:00 **Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chair: *Raj Sivalingam, Executive Director, techUK*

10:10 **Europe's Digital Agenda Targets – Evaluating Successes and Future Challenges**

- Digital Agenda for Europe 2020: Assessing Broadband Roll-out Progress
- Discussing the EC's Consultation on the Needs for Internet Speed and Quality
- Evaluating the Potential of High-Speed Broadband on Competitiveness, Productivity and Growth
- Recommendations for Future Policy Action

Speakers: *Anna Krzyzanowska, Head of Broadband Unit, DG CONNECT, European Commission
Ana Pesovic, Vice President, FTTH Council Europe*

10:40 ***First Round of Discussions***

11:10 *Morning Coffee Break*

11:30 **Investing in High Speed Broadband and Digital Infrastructures**

- Discussing Current Figures and Needs at European Level
- Connecting Europe Facility: Promoting an Efficient Flow of Private and Public Investments for Broadband Networks and Digital Service Infrastructures
- Ensuring Smart Financial Support for Broadband Development at National Level
- Maximising the Potential of the Digital Economy: Investing in Cloud Computing, Big Data Tools and Internet of Things

Speakers: *Harald Gruber, Head of Division, Digital Economy and Education Projects Directorate, EIB
Arthur van der Wees, Managing director of Arthur's Legal, Member of the European Committee Cloud Select Industry Group, Member of the EC's Alliance IoT Innovation (AIOTI)*

12:00 **Second Round of Discussions**

12:30 *Networking Lunch*

13:30 **Bridging Europe's Digital Divide: Ensuring Coverage in Rural and Disadvantaged Areas**

- Current State of Affairs: Has Europe Closed the Divide?
- Promoting the Benefits of Broadband Services in Rural and Disadvantaged Areas
- Rethinking Structural and Rural Development Tools
- Sharing Knowledge and Best Practices

Speakers: *Benedikte Tryhou, Project Manager at Voka, Chamber of Commerce West-Flanders
John Chevers, Chief Business Development Officer, GEANT*



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14:00 **Third Round of Discussions**

14:30 *Afternoon Coffee Break*

14:50 **The Net Neutrality Debate: Striking the Right Balance between Consumers Protection and Broadband Carriers Investment Returns**

- Meeting Standard Transparency Requirements in Traffic Management - Distinguishing Network and User Protection, and Deliberate Traffic Congestion Practices
- Tackling IP Address and Peering Discrimination: Promoting Anti-Blocking Practices
- Should Broadband Carriers act as the Internet Gatekeepers?

Speakers: *Olivier Braet*, Senior Researcher at iMinds-SMIT Research Centre, VUB
Frederic Donck, Director, European Regional Bureau, Internet Society

15:20 **Fourth Round of Discussions**

15:50 **Chair's Summary and Closing Remarks**

16:00 *Networking Reception and Refreshments*

16:30 ***Symposium Close***

**** Please note that the programme and speakers are subject to change without notice ****