

PRESS RELEASE

PRYSMIAN GROUP AT FT-ETNO SUMMIT 2018 CALLS FOR RENEWED FOCUS ON OPTICAL FIBRE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

SVP PHILIPPE VANHILLE: "A DENSE FIBRE NETWORK IS CRITICAL TO FULFIL THE REQUIREMENTS OF FUTURE DIGITAL APPLICATIONS"

Milan, 15 October, 2018 - Prysmian Group, world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry, drew attention to the importance of network infrastructure today at the FT-ETNO Summit 2018. The Group's Senior Vice President for Telecoms, Philippe Vanhille, laid out a vision for a successful future telecoms and digital sector, speaking at the flagship event on telecoms policy in Brussels.

Sharing a stage with the heads of leading European telecom operators, he presented his views on the future model for broadband networks, emphasising the importance of both investors and policy-makers taking a long-term view. In the fast-changing digital sector, this means promoting the deployment of high-quality passive infrastructure that will be able to respond to as yet undefined future demands for digital capacity.

With the negotiations over the future European telecoms framework finally complete at EU level and the European Parliament starting to prepare itself for the next elections, EU politicians and officials are now entering a period of both assessment and brainstorming. On the one hand, they must measure and assess the immediate effects of the new framework, as Member States begin the task of implementing the rules into their national laws. On the other, as a wider period of reflection begins in the lead up to the European elections, they are considering the future steers they want to give to the European digital economy.

Prysmian Group is convinced that even in this time of political change, it is crucial to stay focussed on the ambitious goals laid down by the European Commission on connectivity. First and foremost, this means investment in a homogenous and future-proof optical fibre infrastructure. "We need the concept of deep fibre to become mainstream", explained Philippe Vanhille "a dense fibre network that can fulfil the requirements of future digital applications".

At risk in this debate is the foundation of the Gigabit Society. Prysmian Group will continue steadfastly contributing to the EU debate on this vital issue, working to ensure that focus is maintained on the infrastructure needs that will ultimately satisfy the digital demands of European citizens. With such high stakes, it is crucial that political expediency does not get in the way of sound investments.

Prysmian Group

Prysmian Group is world leader in the energy and telecom cable systems industry. With almost 140 years of experience, sales exceeding €11 billion (pro-forma as of 31.12.2017), about 30,000 employees in over 50 countries and 112 plants, the Group is strongly positioned in high-tech markets and offers the widest possible range of products, services, technologies and know-how. It operates in the businesses of underground and submarine cables and systems for power transmission and distribution, of special cables for applications in many different industries and of medium and low voltage cables for the construction and infrastructure sectors. For the telecommunications industry, the Group manufactures cables and accessories for voice, video and data transmission, offering a comprehensive range of optical fibres, optical and copper cables and connectivity systems. Prysmian is a public company, listed on the Italian Stock Exchange in the FTSE MIB index.

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