

European Conference:
Rural Broadband: For ever trickling instead of Streaming?

Brussels, 6th of May 2008

Speakers List

Dr. Ingo Friedrich is Quaestor and Member of the Bureau of the European Parliament since 2007 as well as Member of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung. After his degree in economics in 1967 at the University Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany, he started working as senior executive in an international electrical company and in parallel made his doctor's degree in 1971. In 1979, when the first direct elections of the European Parliament took place, Dr. Ingo Friedrich was promptly elected as Member of the European Parliament. He holds further offices such as CSU Deputy Chairman (since 1993) and Member of the EPP bureau (since 1996). From 1999 until 2007, he was Vice-President of the European Parliament. Since 2006, he also gives lectures in "European Business" at the University of Applied Sciences in Ansbach.



Pr Dr Ing Alex Röder, the founder and CEO of arit management GmbH, has a distinguished career as a leading executive in the ICT sector. After being awarded a doctorate in 1980, Prof. Röder started work as a Development Engineer for hardware, microcode and software before assuming several senior management positions at IBM Germany. These included two international assignments in USA and France and directing the IBM Scientific Centre in Heidelberg. As Division Manager at Deutsche Telekom and as CEO of a subsidiary he was responsible for IT infrastructure for five years. Prof. Röder held the position of Managing Director Service Technology with O₂ Germany for six years. Additionally he assumed the role of Group CIO at Telefonica O₂ Europe plc. Prof. Röder was awarded the title of honorary professor at the University of Stuttgart in 1993. Since 2006 he has been the Chairman of ITG (Information Technology Society) and member of the Supervisory Board of VDE (Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies).



Dr Dieter Klumpp studied political Science, History and Journalism at Stuttgart University, at Universidad Católica in Santiago de Chile (1973/74). Ph.D. in Communication Science (Free University of Berlin). Since 1983 Managing Director of the Alcatel-Lucent Foundation for Communication Research. E.g. speaker of the VDE/ITG (Information Technology Society within VDE) division "Information Society and Focus Projects". Adviser of CEPIS Executive Committee (Council of European Professional Informatics Societies). Member of the consultative circle of German Ministry for Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Representative to Initiative21 for "E-Government" and Board Member "Competence Centre Technology – Diversity – Equal Opportunities"; VDI-Main Group „Engineer in Profession and Society“, Düsseldorf; Futur-Dialog Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Berlin; Managing Editor of the "Yearbook Telecommunication and Society".



Dr. Angelika Niebler is a member of the European Parliament since 1999 in the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats. She studied Law in Munich and Geneva. Since 1991 she has been working as a Lawyer in Munich and since 1999 she is CDU/CSU-Group parliamentary business manager in the EPP-ED Group, which with 49 delegates represents the biggest national delegation within the European Parliament, and Member of the CDU/CSU Group and EPP-ED Group Executive. Dr. Angelika Niebler is Chairwoman of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and Member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. For the Committee on International Market and Consumer Protection and the Temporary Committee on Climate Change she works as a Substitute. Furthermore she is Member of the Delegation for relations with the Gulf States.



Wolfgang Kopf took on responsibility for the Public & Regulatory Affairs of Deutsche Telekom AG in November 2006. Since 2002 he has been responsible for the Public & Regulatory Affairs Department at T-Mobile International AG & Co. KG. Wolfgang Kopf studied Arts and Law at the Universities of Mainz and Speyer, specialising in European and Administrative Law. He also holds a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree from the University of London, where he worked on the deregulation of network industries. During his training as a lawyer, he worked for a leading international law firm and the European Commission. Wolfgang Kopf joined Deutsche Telekom's International Division in May 1995 working in international business development and M&A. In 1996 he was named head of Deutsche Telekom's Competition Law department and in 2000, head of International Government Affairs, responsible for European, US and international regulatory affairs and competition law. He is the Convenor of the European Round Table of Industrialists (ERT) Working Group on Competition Policy dealing with the current reform process of European competition law.



Gerd Eickers, president of VATM, studied Economics and afterwards he started his professional career at General Electric Information Services in 1979. He was in charge in different departments whereas at subsidiaries in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Scandinavia. In 1995 he worked as manager in the Thyssen Group responsible for the telecommunication activities of the company, especially in the departments Business Development and Regulatory Affairs. Gerd Eickers is founder of the QSC AG, Cologne, starting 1999 as member of the supervisory board. From 2001 through end of 2003 he served the company as Chief Operating Officer responsible in the core departments customer service, order management and regulation. Gerd Eickers was managing director in the VATM from 1997 through 1998 straight after its foundation and set the focus on the subject prerequisites and deployment of the liberalization in the Germany telecoms market with regard to the competitors of the incumbent.



with regard to the competitors of the incumbent.

Kai Seim has over 20 years experience in IT and TC industry as a consultant and manager. Before founding Seim & Partners and UnserNetz – der Dorfcarrier, Kai headed Network Engineering at T-Systems, the business customer’s branch of Deutsche Telekom. Before this he acted as CIO of Gerling E&L Lebensversicherung, a midsize life insurance, responsible for SW development and operations and organizational development. Before entering management positions, Kai had a long career as consultant in IT and TC. He holds a diploma in computer science (Informatik) from Technical University Berlin. Today Kai is focused on delivering real broadband (100 Mbps and more) to rural areas. Together with two partners he founded UnserNetz, a company deploying fiber with alternative civil construction methods. UnserNetz is open to any interested municipality to talk about deploying fibre based broadband services.



Dr. Rudolf W. Strohmeier, born in 1952, studied Law and Economics in Würzburg and Bonn. In 1981 he took his doctor’s degree with a thesis on EMS. From 1980-1985 he worked as civil servant at the Bavarian Liaison office in Bonn. Afterwards he became detached civil servant to the European Commission in Brussels. He established the Bavarian Information Office in Brussels in 1987 and was its first Director. Dr. Strohmeier worked for different Private Offices of EU-Commissioners. From 1987-1995 for Peter M. Schmidhuber afterwards he served from 1995-2000 as Deputy Head of Commissioner Dr. Franz Fischler’s Private Office and then he became Head of Division in the Directorate General Agriculture. He was responsible for relations to the other EU-Institutions and agricultural NGOs. From 2003-2004 he was adviser in the Private Office of the President of the EU Commission Prof. Romano Prodi, responsible for Industry, Environment, Public Health, Agriculture, Fisheries and Consumer Protection. Subsequent to this he was first adviser and then director of DG AGRI/B responsible for Communication, Documentation and Relations to the other EU-Institutions. Since January 2005 Dr. Strohmeier is the Head of the Cabinet of Dr. Viviane Reding.



Christian Irmeler is in the wireless business since 1991 and has over 20 years of experience in IT and telecoms. He founded a wireless broadband company in 1994 to rollout an alternative last-mile infrastructure for voice and data. In 2001 he merged 14 wireless businesses into AIRDATA AG to become the largest wireless broadband carrier in Germany. As a founding member of GUSTA (Global UMTS TDD Alliance) he was elected the head of operators group to accelerate the growing success of the leading standard for delivering wide-area wireless broadband and other high-speed packet based services in the world.



Dr. Johann Niggel, born in 1962, studied business administration at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich and then took his doctor’s degree under Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Arnold Picot in the field of information and communications management, placing particular emphasis on the subject of the emergence of standards in the IT sector. After working for several years as the deputy head of the Public Transport Section in the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology, Dr. Niggel took over management of the “Public Transport” Competence Centre in 2000 at the firm of management consultants and auditors, Rödl & Partner, in Nuremberg. In 2001, Dr. Niggel was appointed CEO of Regentalbahn AG, one of the leading private railway companies in Germany. Following the successful sale of the state’s majority shareholding in the company, Dr. Niggel returned to the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs at the end of 2006, where he took over as Head of the Media Industry and Telecommunications Section.

