

eMobility General Assembly in Venice



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The sixth General Assembly of the European Technology Platform eMobility took place at Telecom Italia's Future Centre in Venice on 16 September 2010. It attracted 65 participants, who witnessed reports about recent activities and achievements and presentations on eMobility's plans for 2011. In addition, keynotes from the European Commission and special sessions with in-depth presentations from selected application domains provided interesting insights.

Wider scope

In his opening speech Werner Mohr from Nokia Siemens Networks, chairman of the eMobility Steering Board, reported about the activities and achievements of the last year. His main message was that eMobility, in the light of converging fixed and mobile networks, is widening its scope to also encompass fixed optical networks in order to maintain a complete network view. A liaison with the Photonics21 platform is planned. The extended scope will facilitate cross-sector research, and is also in line with the new scope of the Future Networks & Mobile Summit. Since 2009, eMobility has grown to 671 members with a good balance of members from industry, research, and SMEs.

Spectrum trends

Ruprecht Niepold, Advisor Radio Spectrum policy at the European Commission, gave his personal view about the need of spectrum management, about trends in spectrum usage and scarcity, and presented conceptual features of spectrum sharing models. In spite of the widespread opinion that there is a growing shortage of radio spectrum, this seems to be the case only in the band below 2 GHz. However, scarcity depends largely on the conditions for access, i.e. supply and demand. There are also

new spectrum usage patterns. For example, usage areas are getting smaller and thus allow a higher reuse of spectrum geographically. Further trends include, for example, nomadic and occasional use and higher tolerance of applications against varying transmission quality. Shared use of spectrum will have a strong impact on regulation, and regulators should become active to gradually develop an enabling regulatory environment.

FP7 work programme

Rainer Zimmermann from the European Commission briefed the audience about the EC's FP7 research work programme 2007-12. The structure of Challenges has been maintained. The Future Internet will be the key enabler for the upcoming commercial services for which Europe needs to secure its share. From a technical point of view, next-generation networks (NGNs) will enable the knowledge based society. Topics like net neutrality, new architecture paradigms and efficient content distribution are topics currently discussed. Conceptual programme charac-

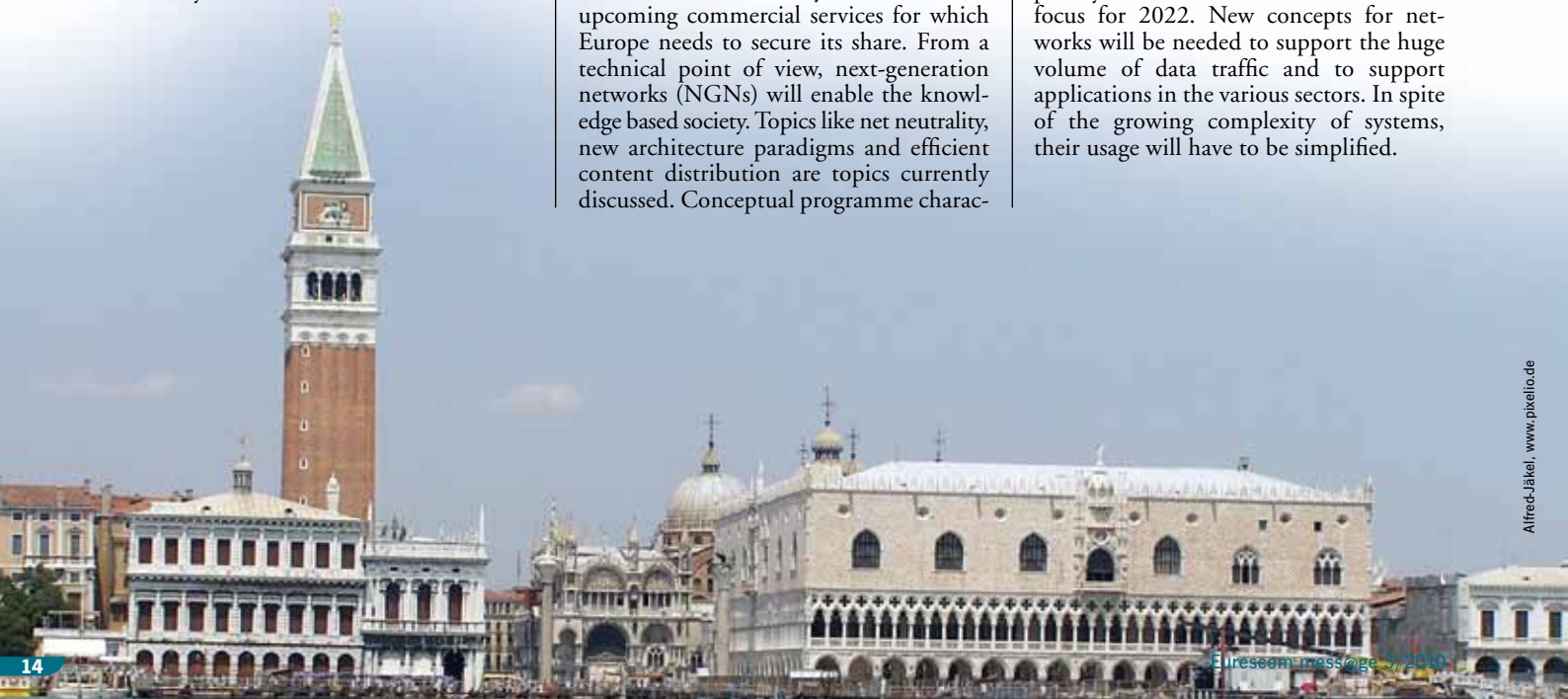


Werner Mohr opens eMobility General Assembly 6

teristics of the Future Internet public private partnership (FI PPP) call include large-scale projects (i.e. larger than current Integrating Projects), flexibility (phased approach), the requirement that projects must contribute to the programme and uniquely address its aspects, the open sharing of foreground, and the inclusion of large-scale trials.

eMobility vision 2022

Fiona Williams from Ericsson gave an overview on the eMobility vision 2022. It has three views: on the individual, on the society, and on the technologies supporting them. People will have a life in the cloud, have a voice in the communities, and will trust their services. Multi-disciplinary research and innovation will be in focus for 2022. New concepts for networks will be needed to support the huge volume of data traffic and to support applications in the various sectors. In spite of the growing complexity of systems, their usage will have to be simplified.





Outlook on the 8th Framework Programme

Regarding the 8th Framework Programme (FP8), Fiona Williams said, the general structure and budgets will be defined in the coming months, and there are signs that budgets might be reduced. The focus will be in line with the Digital Agenda, the Innovation Union, and the Grand Societal Challenges. ICT has an essential role in enabling other sectors, for example health and transport, to address these challenges. Europe still has the lead in communications infrastructure, according to Mrs. Williams, but future research activities will be needed in order to maintain this lead.

Werner Mohr added that eMobility will provide feedback during the preparation of FP8 in order to represent the interests of the eMobility community. This includes promotion of identified research topics and contributions to instruments in FP8 based on eMobility's experience in the ICT programmes. eMobility members are invited to contribute to this process.

A summary report on the General Assembly and all slides can be downloaded from the eMobility website at www.emobility.eu.org.



Participants from the European Commission



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Plenary session at eMobility GA Venice