

European Broadband Cable 2008



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Cable Europe

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Cable Europe Introduction **Caroline van Weede, Managing Director,** **Cable Europe**

Welcome to the eight edition of the Screen Digest / Cable Europe European Broadband Cable Report.

Cable Europe is a trade association that groups all leading broadband cable TV operators and their national associations throughout Europe. The aim of Cable Europe is to promote and defend the industry's policies and business interests at European and international level, and to foster co-operation among its members.

More Competition

The figures in this report show that the cable industry has continued to expand in spite of mounting competition from rival operators, including the launch of IPTV services by incumbent telecom groups. At year-end 2007 the cable industry served 72m households.

The European cable industry provides continuous strong growth for broadband Internet, telephony and especially digital TV. I'm happy to see that cable in Europe is successfully leveraging its experience in offering TV services to take the lead in providing interactive high-quality digital TV.

Cable at the speed of fibre

Cable is taking the lead as super-fast download speeds and new services such as HD video conferencing will soon be a reality for a large number of Europe's cable customers. A

new generation of cable technology - Data Over Cable Service Interface Specifications 3 (DOCSIS 3.0) will allow broadband speeds of over 200Mbps and more. DOCSIS 3.0 is already being tested in France and the Netherlands, and is expected to be rolled out in most of Europe by 2010.

New EU Telecom Rules

The EU institutions are currently debating proposals to reform the European telecoms space. Cable Europe has been very active in following the legislative process and in lobbying decision makers in Brussels about the role of cable in stimulating competition in the broadband, telephony and TV markets in Europe.

Cable Europe strongly emphasises that regulation needs to take into account the full consequences for investment decisions of cable companies and other infrastructure-based competitors. Investments in alternatives to incumbent telecom networks are crucial in ensuring sustainable competition in the long run.

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