

## **Media release**

Zurich, 5 September 2011

### **Competition Commission confirms potential jeopardising of competition by public cooperation in optical fibre network expansion**

**In its communiqué of 5 September 2011, the Competition Commission (WEKO) confirms that the cooperation projects between Swisscom and public utility providers submitted to it for preliminary examination regarding the extension of the optical fibre network may pose a major threat to competition. upc cablecom thus regards its opinion as confirmed and is demanding that market players now address the misgivings voiced by WEKO.**

The future of successful, smooth-running infrastructure competition based on private investment in the Swiss telecommunications market must not be jeopardised. Surveys prove that countries with effective infrastructure competition launch new technologies two years ahead of countries with no competition.

Only if the cooperation agreements are amended as recommended by WEKO, will the risk be minimised of taxpayers' money having to be wasted on fines in the future.

#### **More than 95% of today's cable network already consists of optical fibre**

Thanks to investments totalling over CHF 1.5 billion in recent years, upc cablecom's telecommunication infrastructure offers tomorrow's standard today. The network of Switzerland's largest cable network operator already consists of more than 95% optical fibre and uses high-performance coaxial cabling for the final connection to the home. Known as Hybrid Fibre Coax (HFC) architecture, it also offers huge capacity reserves in the long term.

Thanks to the development of its cable networks, since the beginning of 2011 upc cablecom has been able to offer its customers the fastest Internet speeds throughout its coverage area. The funds saved through this gradual development are continuously invested by upc cablecom in the creation of attractive products and services.



**For more information about upc cablecom visit:**

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**About upc cablecom**

upc cablecom – a member of Liberty Global – is Switzerland's largest cable network company and provides its customers with offerings in the television, Internet and telephony sectors. As of 30 June 2011 the company recorded over 1.5 million cable connections with television and radio reception. 509,600 customers additionally use upc cablecom Digital TV and Radio. Another 525,200 Internet and 339,000 telephony customers have invested their trust in the products of Switzerland's largest cable network operator. The company also provides voice, data and value-added services for business customers. upc cablecom supplies cable network companies with system building, application and transmission services. Its own network serves over 2 million households and covers all major Swiss cities. In 2010 upc cablecom generated revenue of more than 1.1 billion Swiss francs with 1400 employees.

<http://www.upc-cablecom.ch/about>

**About Liberty Global**

Liberty Global is the leading international cable operator offering advanced video, voice and broadband internet services to connect its customers to the world of entertainment, communications and information. As of June 30, 2011, Liberty Global operated state-of-the-art networks serving 18 million customers across 14 countries principally located in Europe, Chile and Australia. Liberty Global's operations also include significant programming businesses such as Chellomedia in Europe.

<http://www.lgi.com>