

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
HEALTH AND CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Public health
Director

Luxembourg,
sanco.ddg1.c.2(2013)3480501

Ms Irina de la Flor
Health Defense Organisation,
Foundation VIVO SANO

Mr. Prósček-Hauptmann
Umweltdachverband (UWD)

Mr Bernhard Zlanabitnig
EEB Board-Member
EU-Umweltbüro

Dr Hanns Moshhammer
Plattform-Mobilfunk-Initiativen (PMI)

Mrs Eva Rath
Plattform-Mobilfunk-Initiativen (PMI)

Subject: Your letter of 19th September 2013

Dear Ms de la Flor,

Dear Ms Rath,

Dear Mr Prósček-Hauptmann,

Dear Mr Zlanabitnig,

Dear Dr Moshhammer,

President Barroso, and Commissioners Tajani, Potočnik and Borg would like to thank you for your letter of 19 September 2013. They have asked me to reply in their behalf.

In this letter, your organisations expressed concerns on possible health effects due to exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF). The Council Recommendation of 12 July 1999¹ on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz) fixes basic restrictions and reference levels for the exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields. These restrictions and reference levels are based on the guidelines published by the International Commission on Non Ionising Radiation Protection in 1998 (ICNIRP)². The Council Recommendation also invites the Commission to "*keep the matters covered by this recommendation under review, with a*

¹ (OJ. L 199/59, 30.7.1999)

² <http://www.icnirp.de/>

view to its revision and updating, taking into account possible effects, which are currently the object of research, including relevant aspects of precaution".

Since then, the reference levels set in the Council Recommendation are periodically reviewed by the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) to assess whether the scientific evidence base would justify the revision of the reference levels recommended by the Council. The opinions delivered by the SCENIHR in March 2007³ and January 2009⁴ and July 2009⁵ confirmed the validity of the reference levels of the 1999 Council Recommendation and highlighted the need for additional data and research on this issue.

A new scientific opinion is being now prepared to review the newly available research and information available since the last opinion (2009). This new opinion will be finalised by the end of the year and it will be published for public consultation at the beginning of 2014.

Furthermore, the European Commission actively supports research in that area in attempting to discover whether exposure to non-ionising radiation from any sources poses a risk to health, for example, whether it can cause cancer or other adverse health outcomes. Furthermore, projects such as LEXNET⁶ are using technological approaches to lower public exposure to electromagnetic fields. Information on ongoing EU research projects can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=health.

With regard to the different actions suggested in your letter such as to limit the maximum exposure of RF –EMF to 0.6 V/m or to establish public places free from EMF, I would like to stress that the provisions of Articles 168 and 169 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union do not confer the EU competence to legislate in the area of protection of the general public from the potential effects of EMF and leaves the primary responsibility with the Member States for taking preventive and protective measures, against possible harmful effects of electromagnetic fields.

With regard to public awareness the Commission promotes an open dialogue with all interested stakeholders and fosters dissemination of knowledge in risk assessment and risk communication. To be informed about the activities performed by the European Commission in this field please visit our website at http://ec.europa.eu/health/electromagnetic_fields/policy/index_en.htm

³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_007.pdf

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_022.pdf

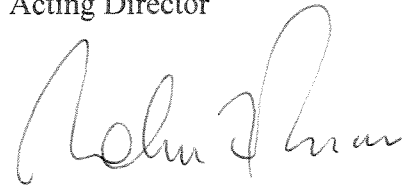
⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_024.pdf

⁶ <http://www.lexnet-project.eu/>

I can assure you that the European Commission will continue to keep the matter under review and work with the Member States to ensure the highest level of health protection for the European citizens, based on the best science available.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Ryan
Acting Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John F. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "R".

