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Converged Networks and Services
Future Networks

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Mr. Jaan Suurkula
jsuurkula@gmail.com

Subject: Mobile phone radiation risk reduction by imposing SMS phones

Dear Mr. Suurkula,

Thank-you for the email message you have sent to us on the 29th January 2009, which was forwarded to us by Mr. Hervé de Sadeleer.

Following the precautionary principle, the Commission continues to support research on possible risks on health from electromagnetic fields, monitors the adherence of the Member States to the European Union recommended electromagnetic fields exposure limits and has periodic reviews of the associated Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC, in the light of the scientific knowledge available.

The European Commission has relied for many years on independent scientists to assess the scientific evidence underpinning the current Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999, on the limitation of the exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz). The EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) has adopted in January 2009 an opinion¹ providing the latest update on the scientific evidence regarding the potential health risks from electromagnetic fields. This updated opinion concludes, based on three independent lines of evidence (epidemiological, animal and in vitro studies), that exposure to RF (Radio Frequency) fields, such as those emitted by mobile phones, is unlikely to lead to an increase in cancer in humans.

As the widespread duration of exposure to RF fields from mobile phones is shorter than the induction time of some cancers, further studies are needed for discerning whether considerably longer-term (well beyond ten years) human exposure to such phones might pose some cancer risk. It is also important, from the risk assessment perspective, to recognise that information on possible effects caused by RF fields in children is limited.

In order to improve the science-based policy making with respect to the possible health impacts of the exposure to electromagnetic fields, the European Commission has committed research funds from the 5th, 6th and 7th Framework Programmes of

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scenihr/docs/scenihr_o_022.pdf

Research². Within the ongoing 7-th Framework Programme, 3.5 million euro have been allocated to a multi-national world-wide study, the MOBIKIDS project, which will investigate RF radiation exposure from mobile phone use during childhood and adolescence and its eventual risk for triggering brain tumours.

In the EU, the Member States are responsible for the protection of the health of the public and the national authorities can take the measures they deem necessary to this end.

The recommendations of the international organisations, like the World Health Organisation (WHO), are also continuously monitored by the Commission and taken into consideration. WHO states that "considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak RF signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects."

On the topic of electromagnetic fields and the related health aspects there is a good information collection on the websites of the national radiation protection authorities and also on the European Commission website, under the "Public Health - Electromagnetic fields" section³.

Yours Sincerely,



Rainer Zimmermann

² http://ec.europa.eu/research/quality-of-life/pdf/emf_brochure_and_sheets_en.pdf

³ http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/environment/EMF/emf_en.htm