

WHO International Stakeholder Seminar on RF Policies



Associated with mobile phones and masts, wifi, smart meters and wireless technology

On 5th June, 2013 evidence was exchanged at the WHO seminar at the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) in Paris followed by dinner at La Coupole Brasserie.

Over 100 stakeholders from 40 countries attended the event including policymakers, EU Commission, telecom, local authorities, regulating bodies, lawyers, environmental activists and health and safety professionals.

Board members from the International EMF Alliance Eileen O'Connor, Sissel Halmøy and Kerstin Stenberg attended the meeting. Stenberg representing the Swedish Association for the Electrohypersensitives said, "We are deeply concerned about the increased prevalence of precursory symptoms of electrohypersensitivity in society such as insomnia, concentration and behaviour disorders, depression and tinnitus. We need to reduce the knowledge gap in order to allow an early diagnosis and reduce the incidence of severe electrohypersensitivity."

Much discussion centered around the precautionary principle which advocates erring on the side of caution until wireless technologies can be proven safe. Deep concern has been raised that the profit-driven telecommunications industry is trying to do away with this precautionary approach, with the proliferation of phone masts throughout the world and growing use of mobile phones by all members of society including children and pregnant

woman, without any prior warnings of the dangers associated with untested and unregulated technology, thus endangering untold millions.

Halmoy representing the Citizens' Radiation Protection in Norway added "Uncertainties for health and the environment exist regarding the introduction of RF fields and increasing use of mobile phones, wifi, phone masts and smart meters which now carry a 2B "possibly human" carcinogenic label as officially classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). The public, especially our children and people suffering with Electrosensitive[ES] symptoms deserve respect and protection."

The World Health Organisation (WHO) called for the views of stakeholders and interested parties in the process of preparing an Environmental Health Criteria monograph on radiofrequency (RF) fields. The monograph will include a scientific review of all studied health outcomes and it will provide an overview of risk management policies and practices around the world.

The purpose of the seminar provided an opportunity for stakeholders to present their views on specific questions to be addressed during the course of this project. The discussions at the seminar and their conclusions will be considered carefully in the development of the WHO monograph.

O'Connor, representing the UK Radiation Research Trust said , "Many doctors and scientists worldwide believe there is a very real and significant risk to the general health of the public, wildlife and the environment. It is an infringement of human rights and may possibly be in contravention of the Nuremberg treaty to subject unsuspecting members of the public to RF/EMF emissions when they have not been shown to be safe, and indeed much research and observation suggest that there are significant risks. Because the public has clearly not given permission or approval or been given proper advice or words of caution to allow them to make informed decisions, we are therefore calling on the WHO to lead the world and to follow the precautionary principle when carrying out this review in order to prevent what could turn out to be a catastrophic disaster."