

## A Law to Regulate Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields

Pierre Le Hir, Le Monde, Jan 29, 2015 (Google Translation)

Expected for two years, the law governing public exposure to electromagnetic fields generated by wireless technology (relay antennas, mobile phones, tablets ...) was adopted by the deputies, Thursday, January 29 late morning, in favor of a parliamentary recess of the environmental group. It was passed by all of the majority, while the UDI abstained - except Bertrand Pancher (Meuse) who spoke to - and that the UMP voted against, seeing an obstacle to the development of the digital industries.

This article - the first in France to establish a precautionary approach to addressing potential health risks of radio frequency - is the result of a real obstacle course, during which its initial ambitions were seriously revised downwards. The bill, filed in January 2013 by the member of the Val-de-Marne Laurence Bee (Europe Ecology-Greens) had been referred to committee by the Socialists, before returning to the National Assembly in January 2014, under a watered-down form, and then to be adopted in first reading by the Senate in June 2014, in an even planned release.

Despite these successive setbacks, the environmental group decided to vote the text as to prevent his return to the Senate source of new delays and probably additional knife strokes. Its adoption is final and welcomes M<sup>me</sup> Bee, "the decrees will be able to be taken without waiting".

[video: Is 4G dangerous? - 17/01]

At the end of the month, environmentalists propose a law to the National Assembly to moderate wave exposure. 4G was deployed at full speed in France by the mobile operators. Their health danger is not scientifically proven, but the organizations denounce the lack of study on their possible dangerousness.

### NOT LOWERING THE LIMITS

Finally, the "Law on sobriety, transparency, information and consultation for exposure to electromagnetic waves" appears as a compromise between the supporters of a stricter supervision of the sector and wireless phone operators, opposed them, any regulatory brake. "This text does not fully address all the issues, recognizes the Green MP. However, it is an essential first step. »

The major novelty is the introduction into French law of a principle of "sobriety" of public exposure to electromagnetic fields. So virtuous as it is, this principle, however, remains vague and non-binding. It is thus no question of lowering the exposure limits in force, including, according to frequencies between 41 and 61 volts per meter (V / m), while the draft original legislation was aimed at the back "as low as reasonably possible" or 0.6 V / m.

### ATYPIQUES POINTS

The National Frequency Agency (AFNR) will nevertheless make every year a national census of "outliers", that is to say, "places where the level of public exposure substantially exceed those generally observed in nationally". Operators will have to remedy within six months, "subject to technical feasibility".

The average exposure in France is now about 1 V / m, but a study of the Operations Committee on waves mobile (Copic), covering sixteen common representative of the French territory and published in 2013, was reported some exposure peaks "up to 10 V / m at maximum transmitter power", even if

the levels remained below 0.7 V / m in 90% of cases. The AFNR considered until now as atypical places where exposure exceeds 6 V / m.

In terms of transparency, the installation of antennas will now be subject to prior information of mayors and presidents of intercommunal structures. And these may in turn - but not required - [to organize](#) a consultation with residents. In addition, a campaign of "awareness and information on the responsible and rational use of mobile devices" will be conducted.

## WI-FI PROHIBITED IN CRIBS

A section of the Act is devoted to the protection of the young. Wireless devices will be banned in "*the spaces dedicated to home, to rest and activities of children under 3 years*", that is to say, nurseries and day care centers. However, contrary to the initial desire of environmentalists, the Wi-Fi will remain permitted in primary schools. It should however be disabled outside the '*digital educational activities* .  
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Finally, the situation often dramatic, people with EHS receives an early account. The government will [submit](#) a report to Parliament on this issue within a year.

[Also read [The electro looking for a virgin land of any wave](#) ]

Associations "anti-waves" prefer to [consider](#), too, the glass is half full rather than half empty. "*This text, which is the first dedicated to the issue of electromagnetic waves and their impact on the environment and health, marks a first step in the recognition by the law of the need to [regulate](#) the development of the mobile and all wireless applications,*" says [the association for the regulation of mobile phone relay antennas \(Priartem\)](#) . In his view, "*the first legislative effort to be an encouragement to [go](#) further in protecting people*" .

## CALLS FOR CAUTION

This act takes place in a [context](#) of accelerated development of sources of electromagnetic waves, in particular with the deployment of mobile very high-speed, 4G. At 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 ANFR indicates the [number of antennas sites authorized in France for 4G](#) was, all operators, 18 699 - against 12,525 a year earlier - including 15,424 Service.

If there is no scientific consensus about the potential dangers of radio frequencies for health, number of studies and opinions have called for caution. In 2011, the World Health Organization (WHO) classified them as "*possibly carcinogenic*". And in 2013, the [National Agency Health Safety of Food, Environment and Labour \(ANSES\)](#) recommended "*limit exposure of the [population](#) to radio frequencies - especially mobile phones - especially for Children and power users*" . It also called for "*control the overall exposure from base stations*" .

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