

International Scientific Conference on EMF and Health

16-17 November 2011

SPEAKING POINTS CLOSING

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND HEALTH

Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General, DG SANCO

- It is my great pleasure to speak to you tonight.
- First of all, I want to express my thanks to all speakers who, I was told, made possible a **very high level, no taboo scientific debate** over the last two days.
- The quality of the scientific debate is of prime importance to us and we, at the Commission, strive continuously **to ensure scientific excellence** in the work of all EU scientific committees over the long term. Witness to this quest for excellence is the fact that the opinions of our scientific committees have built a track record as works of **scientific reference in risk assessment** the world over.
- Of course, I am also very grateful to the **very large number of participants** from many corners of the world without whom these debates would not have been possible and who, I am sure, **will bring new knowledge back home**.
- As announced, this conference was organized as a **preparation to a new request to the SCENIHR** to update the 2009 scientific opinion on electromagnetic fields and health.
- The scientific debates that you have witnessed will **help us formulate the right questions**, will **feed the work of the SCENIHR** and will **inform our requests for new research** to our colleagues in charge of the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research, and soon of Horizon 2020. This will be necessary to **address the remaining knowledge gaps** that were identified today.
- **Professor Ravazzani**, who chaired the conference Scientific Steering Group, has just presented to you the result of the competent work produced by the session rapporteurs together with the broader perspective provided by the panel discussion.
- I will **leave the specific scientific conclusions to the experts**. I see that they have done their job over these two days and I am glad that we will have **concrete conference conclusions**.
- As a final consideration, I want to come back on three fundamental points:
- 1. Rest assured that **the Commission is taking very seriously its role** in the protection of EU citizens and, where its legal competences in public health are limited, is ready to provide all the assistance in its means to the Member States.

- 2. **The Commission will not compromise on the scientific excellence** required from its scientific committees. This is one of the convictions of our Commissioner, Mr John Dalli, as, without this excellence, sound policy making becomes impossible.
- 3. As you have seen over these two days, we will continue **to operate in a transparent fashion and we will not shy away from any fair scientific debate**, as, in the end, this is the best guarantee for public health protection.