

Workshop EMF and Health

Brussels, 11-12 February 2009

Health & Environment Alliance



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A walk in the morning to Crèche



Green 10



The Green 10. A group of leading environmental citizens organisations active at EU level

ENVIRONMENT AT THE HEART OF EUROPE
An environmental roadmap for 2009-2014
THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
SEPTEMBER 2008
A JOINT DOCUMENT FROM THE GREEN 10

5. A Cleaner, Safer Environment for Healthier Europeans

10. **Review all electromagnetic field (EMF) regulations** based on new findings on increased exposure to wireless devices and health effects research as described in the Bioinitiative report and recommendations.



Introduction

- Enough scientific evidence to justify concern
 - Reports of adverse effects are becoming too numerous to be ignored or dismissed as ‘psychosomatic’
 - Concern is widespread: among citizens *and* scientists/doctors (eg. Benevento resolution)
- ▶ **Question: how can we move forward?
What pragmatic policy measures would improve public health and are no regrets options?**



Needed appropriate, precautionary and (proportional) policy measures

1. Lowering exposure limits RF

- **BioInitiative: 0,6 V/m**
- **ALARA-principle: As Low As Reasonably Achievable**

Dutch Knowledge Platform Safe Mobile Network: 0,2 V/m and even 0,06 V/m are technically feasible

www.kennisplatformveiligmobielnetwerk.info



- Higher placed antennas
- With lower power

Phone mast 10-20 watt, maximally 5 meter above rooftop

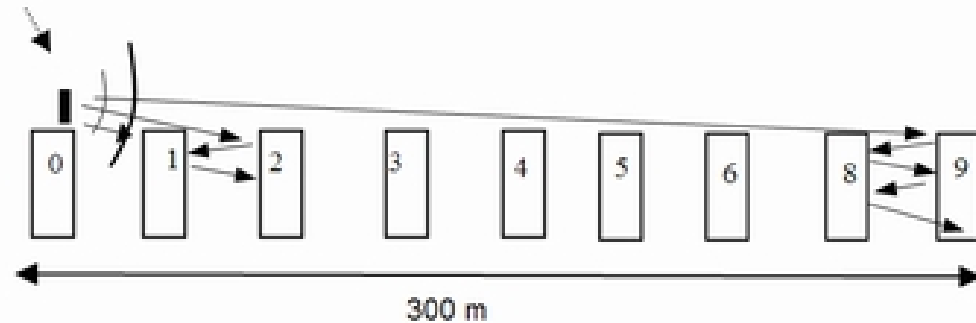


Fig. 1

Phone mast, 0,6 watt, on 45 meter high pole

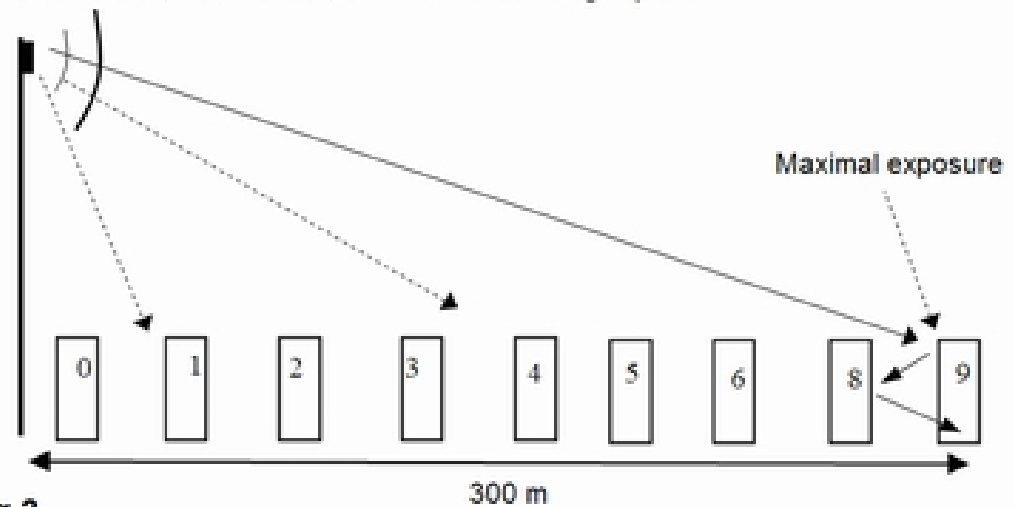


Fig 2.

Redesign and labelling of wireless devices



- **Mobile phones**
 - Research design to direct emissions away from head **BUT** measures needed to avoid increased passive exposure of bystanders
 - Promote wired headsets and/or speakerphone mode

- **Cordless DECT-phones**
 - **Labelling: ‘emits microwave radiation’ & CENELEC standard**
 - **ALL cordless phones should be ‘low radiation’:**
 - **No radiation when not in use**
 - **Signal strength adjusted to distance**



Wireless internet (WiFi)

- **Labelling: ‘emits microwave radiation’**
Technical Standard in CENELEC
- **Possibility for users to specify needed distance of use and accordingly adjusted signal strength?**
- **On/Off Switch (also energy consumption)**



Measures limiting involuntary 'passive' exposures

- **Mobile phones: heightened level of EMF even at some meters distance**
→ exposure of bystanders
- **Exacerbated in cars and on public transport**
- **Need for mobile phone free zones on public transport & wireless free buildings**



www.mast-victims.org www.radiationresearch.org www.next-up.org

Raising awareness among the public

Large scale information campaigns:

- Responsible mobile phone use (guidelines)
- Information on possible health effects of wireless devices and how to minimise exposure
- Discouraging or prohibiting mobile phone use by children and pregnant women



Protection of vulnerable groups

- Fetuses (pregnant women), babies, children, adolescents, sick people, the elderly, ...
- Examples of measures:
Schools, hospitals, retirement homes, etc.:
 - No siting of cell phone antennas nearby
 - Avoiding the use of wireless technologies



Mobile phone use by children and adolescents

- Awareness raising Lyon, France – Blue Angel, Germany:



Measures for electro(hyper)sensitive people

- United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
 - ▶ **Full and equal access healthy environment**



Moratorium for new mobile networks and use of higher frequencies

- **Last years: quick roll-out of new networks (UMTS/3G, Wimax, ...)**
- **Health effects of these specific frequencies have not been researched**
- **Unwise to introduce technologies to the market that have not been tested for safety beforehand**



Thank you.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.env-health.org

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