

COMMENTS RECEIVED DURING THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REQUEST FOR AN OPINION ON THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

A public consultation on this request was opened on the website of the EU non-food scientific committees from 13 December 2011 to 27 January 2012. Information about the public consultation was broadly communicated to national authorities, international organisations and other stakeholders.

In total, 36 contributions were received from 19 individuals (one contributed three times) and 13 organisations (three business organisations, 8 NGOs and 2 academic bodies). One NGO sent three contributions. A number of individuals affiliated to some of these NGOs also sent individual contributions.

Each submission was carefully considered by the Commission. Eighteen submissions agreed that the request was relevant and complete, four disagreed and thirteen partly agreed.

The reasons for the disagreements consisted in calls for carrying out research, requests to address how the IARC classification methodology should be understood, requests to address potential environmental effects as well as risk management and regulatory considerations. However, all these requests fall outside of the remit of the SCENIHR, whose role is confined to the assessment of the available scientific evidence. Research, risk management, regulatory proposals and environmental considerations fall outside of the scope of the SCENIHR.

A number of contributions proposed scientific references that will be considered by the scientific committee. Other contributions insisted on the need to recognise the importance of characterising exposures. This last point is a recurrent issue in risk assessment and will be taken into account in this work.

On the basis of the above, the original request to the SCENIHR remains unchanged.