

Open Letter of the Experts on EMF pollution: “The Italian Development Decree makes the radiofrequency radiation rise up”

Rome, 10th November 2012

The Development Decree that is going to be launched by the Italian government will impose the evaluation of electromagnetic fields limits in the home by measuring them and then averaging them across a 24 hour-period, rather than across a 6 minute period, as is done today. This measurement system will lead to an underestimation of peak values of EMF even while appearing to maintain the existing limit of 6 volts per meter, because the peaks detected and averaged over 6 minutes today will be diluted when averaged over 24 hours.

This method of measurement over 24 hours will allow diurnal peaks as high as 18-20 V/m in a house to be tolerated because, in the daytime, the number of mobile active users is higher, while at night, use goes down. Thus, peak levels can be up to three times higher than the current exposure limit (6 V/m). THIS CHANGE will likely cause an exponential growth in electromagnetic-exposure- related diseases and consequently, an increase in health and social costs.

Given:

- the IARC classification of radiofrequency radiation as a class 2B, possible carcinogen, based on studies of mobile phone-induced cancer (May 2011);
- the Italian Framework Law on electrosmog 36/2001 that plans to adopt precautionary measures, in application of the precautionary principle referred to in Article 174, paragraph 2, of the European Union Treaty establishing;
- the Resolution of the Council of Europe on 27 May 2011 that calls on member states to set "precautionary limits for exposure to microwaves over the long-term and in all indoor environments, in accordance with the Precautionary Principle, which do not exceed the 0.6 volts/meter; and in the medium-term, to reduce this value to 0.2 V/m";
- the Resolution of the European Parliament on 4 September 2008 entitled "Interim Evaluation of the European Action Plan for the Environment and Health Action Plan 2004-2010" that reports the increased cases of EHS and recommends to "reduce exposure to electromagnetic radiation";
- the numerous resolutions of independent scientists such as the International Commission for Electromagnetic Safety (ICEMS) and the BioInitiative Group – quoted respectively by the Council of Europe and by the European Parliament as independent scientific references – that promote the lowering of safety limits down to 0.6 V/m, since the current standards are not based on biological evidence;

the undersigned DOCTORS, BIOLOGISTS, PHYSICISTS, ENGINEERS, MATHEMATICIANS, NATURALISTS, SOCIOLOGISTS, ARCHITECTS, JOURNALISTS AND LAWYERS ask s that the article on the Development Decree regarding EMF measurements be removed because it effectively cancels the precautionary principle recommended by the European Union and the Framework Law on electrosmog 36/2001, relaxing the actual environmental protections in use in Italy.

We also ask that the Development Decree promote the creation and deployment of a fiber-optic cable network, which representa the only technology for the efficient transmission of voice and data currently available without contraindications for human health and the health of other living creatures.

Signatories (in order of signing):

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