



# The EMF issue at DG SANCO - Latest developments -

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# Structure of presentation:

- **Basis for Commission action**
- **Risk assessment**
- **Stakeholder dialogue**
- **Conclusions**

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# Framework for EU action

***Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC***

**Not binding for Member States!**

**Proposed exposure limits (0Hz–300GHz)  
based on 1998 ICNIRP guidelines**



## C.R. Invites Commission to:

- **Encourage research**
- **Promote international guidelines**
- **Keep the matters under review**
- **Report on latest scientific data/advice**
- **Report on implementation in MS**



**So, the Commission has no legal competence to actually protect the public...**

**...but it has legal competence to protect workers**



# Revision of Directive 2004/40/EC

- **Commission proposal being discussed by Council and EP**
- **Approach based on exposure limits with exemptions**

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# EMF risk assessment

- **Mandated by Recommendation**
- **SCENIHR → independent advice**
- **Review of ALL scientific evidence**
- **Weight of evidence approach**
- **Scientific opinions**
  - **Latest : 2009**



# EMF risk assessment

- **16-17 November 2011, Brussels**
- **Under the auspices of the SCENIHR**
- **Prelude to next SCENIHR update**
- **~300 participants, 34 countries**
- **Strict scientific focus, overview**
- **Already led to a new request**

# International scientific conference

## ■ Domains covered:

1. Sources of uncertainty in EMF research
2. Current state of knowledge (sc. consensus)
3. Areas of scientific inconsistency and gaps
4. The way forward

## Some conclusions

- **Many sources of uncertainty in both experimental and epi studies**
- **Interdisciplinary approaches needed to address them**
- **ELF effects  $>100\mu\text{T}$ , RF thermal**
- **ELF epi: childhood leukemia, Alzheimer, ALS**
- **RF: effects on EEG**

## Remaining questions

- **ELF in vitro: gentox?  
Apoptosis?epigenetics?**
- **RF: young animals? neurodegenerative diseases? Lack of in vitro models, too few signals tested**
- **Epi: too many methodological limitations so far**
- **Effects of new technologies? LTE?**

# Knowledge needs

- **Interaction mechanisms**
- **Dosimetry/exposure assessment**
- **Intermediate frequencies**
- **Prospective cohorts**

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# EMF Stakeholder Dialogue Group

- **Manageable group (16)**
- **All stakeholder groups, EU wide**
- **In-depth, no taboo discussion**
- **Sustained engagement**
- **Objective:**
  - **Recommendations for next policy steps?**





## Process

- **Started May 2011, 4 meetings**
- **High level of goodwill**
- **Group filled a gap**
- **Agreement on list of issues**
- **Info/communication is crucial**
- **Last meeting after conference**

## Conclusion of exercise

- **An activist leaflet was tabled**
- **Break in confidence**
- **Decision to stop**
- **Conclusions to be written**
- **Keep group for ad hoc questions?**

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## Conclusions

- 1. Comm. monitoring issue closely**
- 2. New update of SCENIHR opinion launched**
- 3. International conference: exposure assessment is major weakness in EMF research and for RA**
- 4. Commission ready to engage in stakeholder dialogue**
- 5. More research under FP7?**



***Thank you!***

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/electromagnetic\\_fields/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/electromagnetic_fields/policy/index_en.htm)

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