

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3551/06
by Anne Ferreira (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Reassessing the recommendation on electromagnetic fields and waves

In 1999, the EU adopted a recommendation (1999/519/EC¹) on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields. The criteria relating to exposure were defined on the basis of the scientific research available in 1999. However, the Member States may set stricter rules.

The recommendation stipulates, among other things, that the authorities of the Member States must inform the public adequately of the consequences of electromagnetic waves so as to be aware of the risks they pose and take appropriate protective action. An evaluation of the recommendation must be carried out after five years, proposing, if necessary, that the recommendation be amended.

Since 1999, mobile telephony has developed considerably, and the consequences of this development are not known. Research on the subject since 1999 includes two studies published in 2005 highlighting the health consequences of these electromagnetic waves and fields and the inadequacy of the protective measures in force.

Have the Member States reported to the Commission on the action taken in terms of exposure levels or in terms of public information on the health risks and consequences of electromagnetic fields and waves?

What research has been carried out as part of the fifth Framework Research and Development Programme (FRDP), and what were its findings? Does the Commission intend to authorise a complementary study on this topic in the light of the most recent data?

In line with the recommendation's general provisions and in the light of the findings of research conducted both within the EU and beyond, does the Commission envisage proposing a revision of the recommendation or even proposing legislation on the subject to establish measures and criteria relating to exposure that are based on the latest scientific data?

¹ OJ L 199, 30.7.1999, p. 59.