

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0874/09  
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to the Commission

Subject: Radio Frequency Identification (RFI): a new risk to public health and to our environment

Has the Commission instigated any studies on the potential health and environmental risks linked to the development of RFID technology and does it intend to introduce European legislation on the subject?

A precautionary and forward-looking approach needs to be taken to this new technology, the aim of which is to store and remotely retrieve data by using markers called 'radio labels' ('RFID tags' or 'RFID transponders'), which can be attached to or incorporated into objects or products and even implanted into living beings (animals, humans, etc.).

In certain Member States the relevant health/environment agencies are highlighting the need to gather data on the environmental impact of this technology, more specifically on the effects of RFID implantation in humans - which has already taken place in certain countries - and especially for employees who are exposed to this technology at work.

It is now also urgent to make it clear to manufacturers and integrators of RFID systems that they must take people's health and safety into account.