

**Question for written answer E-012554/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Mobile phone cancer connection

In May 2011 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), under the auspices of the World Health Organisation, classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans, and an increased risk of brain cancer could be associated with wireless phone use. The number of mobile phone users is growing, particularly among young people and children. For example, a study on mobile phone use has shown a 40% increased risk of a malignant type of brain cancer in the highest category of heavy users, among whom reported average use was 30 minutes per day over a 10-year period. However, the European Environmental Agency has concluded that there is still a high level of scientific uncertainty about radiation from mobile phones, and has recommended that a precautionary approach be taken.

1. What action will the Commission take in response to the findings of the IARC about the risk of carcinogenicity of electromagnetic fields which is associated with the use of mobile phones?
2. On what scientific basis was the EU's currently applicable maximum permitted level for electromagnetic fields established?
3. Will the Commission take further steps in funding additional research into long-term, frequent use of mobile phones in order to reduce scientific uncertainty?
4. Will the Commission come up with proposals which move beyond a merely precautionary approach and propose measures such as the establishment of safety levels?
5. Will the Commission take any additional measures to reduce exposure to potentially carcinogenic mobile devices, for example by encouraging the use of hands-free kits and moderate use of mobile phones for pre-teen children and teenagers?