

BRAZIL
Report on ELF Activities
13th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF
June 2008

The risk perception of the general public, related to ELF, seems to reach a lower degree of concern. This statement comes not from a formal pool, but from a perception shared many by experts that deal with different aspects of the problem. These experts are reporting less demand for explanation about the ELF issue. Parallel to this, two new utilities substations and its associated transmission lines, respectively in Rio de Janeiro and Florianópolis (South Region of Brazil), did not demand too much efforts to be approved in public audiences. Fact Sheet 322 of WHO, seems to be accepted by the population as a basis for less fear about the ELFs, at least on these two cases. The participation of WHO and ICNIRP's staff and other well known international experts in many workshops and seminars in Brazil, helped a lot to set up a new standard of discussion of the ELF issue among the stakeholders, including Federal Congressmen.

The Bioelectromagnetic Commission, installed in Brazil late 2005 to deal with issues related to EMFs, did an important job reviewing a Federal Law on EMFs (Law project PL 2576/2000), as a request of the Congress, and presented suggestions, at the beginning of 2007, as reported in the 12th IAC meeting. The Commission has an advisory character, it means can suggest laws, standards and procedures to the Congress and governmental organisms. It is composed by representatives of the following Ministries: Civil House, Health, Mines and Energy, Science and Technology, Environmental, Labor, Communication, Cities and Justice. ICNIRP and WHO recommendations served as basis for the Commission suggestions. The Law Project was approved in the Justice and Constitution Commission of the National Congress, the last step before goes to the Senate. The final approval at the Senate is expected to the end of 2008, if there are no changes in the text during the Senate discussion phase. As the PL 2576/2000 is a result of a deep discussion, including a Seminar in April 2007 at the Congress, with the participation of WHO and ICNIRP (Emilie van Deventer and Paolo Vecchia as representatives) and stakeholders, no big changes are expected. After the request of review the PL 2576, the Bioelectromagnetic Commission did not receive demands related to ELFs, what reinforce the impression of less concern on the subject.

About research, the main project to be reported is the EMF-São Paulo Research Project (EMF-SP), that includes a large EPI study on childhood leukemia. This study started in 2005 and is expected to present final results on 2009. The EMF-SP also includes occupational and adult disease studies, field level assessment and a risk perception study. The results so far achieved on the Project are helping to improve the level of knowledge on ELF health assessment in Brazil. More information about the EMP-SP Project can be found at www.emf-sp.com.br. In field calculation area CEPEL (Electrical Power Research Center) is improving application of computational dosimetry studies to assess electromagnetic fields exposure conditions near overhead transmission lines. An article about this work was presented last year in Romania and is attached to this report.

An important workshop on ELF organized by CIER (Electrical Regional Integration Commission – an Organization that congregates 23 countries in South and Central America) and its Paraguay section (PACIER) has just happen Assuncion in May 2008. An ICNIRP Workshop has been organized under local responsibility of Ministry of Science and Technology of Brazil. It is programmed to happen from 14th to 17th October 2008 and is expected to continuing improving the quality of ELF discussion in Brazil and other South America countries.