

# **Brazil**

## **Report on EMF Activities**

### **9<sup>th</sup> International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF**

**June 2004**

The electromagnetic field (EMF) theme started been handled by Brazilian Ministry of Health since 2002, due to civil society requests. In this way, the Ministry of Health organized a workshop on EMF and health, with the participation of many civil society and government sectors, aiming to improve the scientific knowledge and to assist in the positioning and in the thesis that should be developed by Health Sector. This workshop became the first policy initiative addressing the health of populations located near electrical substations and transmission lines.

The workshop resulted in the governmental act, which created the working group to propose human exposure standards to EMF with frequency up to 60 Hz, produced by high tension electrical transmission lines. This resulted in another working group with the proposal of evaluate and normalize the aspects related to the human exposure to EMFs, in the entire non-ionizant range.

Until the present moment, in our country, the Federal Government has had a little participation in the regulation of health, environment, scientific and technological aspects of EMFs. The definition of standards should be based on Precautionary Principle, where the human health, the environment protection and the technological, macroeconomics and the private market can be harmonized by the Government.

This process has many difficulties in its management, due to some reasons, such as: it is a relatively new subject; the scientific uncertainties regarding health damage; unbalance between rights and economical interests (Health, Mining and Energy, Telecommunications); wide interfaces among several sectors; absence of epidemiological Brazilian studies; absence of Brazilian standard references and difficulties in applying the Precautionary Principle.

The EMF internalization process into the Ministry of Health demanded many abilities from the stakeholder to understand that it is a new subject, with scientific uncertainties, difficulties in having common interests with other Government spheres, and that to by-pass the adversities he needed to publish and discuss exhaustively with other social and governmental stakeholders.

The Ministry of Health performance was based on the opening discussion with the society as the best strategy to take away any doubts and make the facts clear and transparent, with the proposal of attend and protect the exposed population from the suspected health damages due to human exposure to EMF in the 0 Hz up to 300 GHz spectre , specially the long term ones.

The working group report was sent by the Ministry of Health to the Republic Civil House in order to create a multisectorial comission to define health standards, environmental licencing, technologic alternatives, and research needs aiming to reduce human exposure to EMF.