

2024 International Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting on Nonlonizing Radiation- 11-13 June 2024 – Geneva, Switzerland Answers to preparatory questions

EMF - Report on activities in Sweden

Research activities related to EMF and health

Currently, the Swedish radiation safety authority's (SSM) Scientific Council for Electromagnetic Fields are working on their nineteenth report, and the eighteenth report is soon to be published. Each year, the council, made up of experts in epidemiology, biology, and engineering, systematically reviews all relevant studies on EMF and health. The result is a report containing summaries of studies concerning Static, ELF-MF/EF, INT-EMF and RF-EMF in the fields of epidemiology, human studies, and animal and cell studies. It is used by SSM as a way to continuously monitor EMF research and evaluate our current health risk evaluations of EMF. It is particularly interesting to follow the new research involving detection thresholds in human studies, which the latest report comments on. Please see the report, in English, here: 202405-recent-research-on-emf-and-health-risk-seventeenth-report-from-ssms-scientific-council-on-electromagnetic-fields-2022 (stralsakerhetsmyndigheten.se)

New relevant policies and legislations

The SSM has supported The Swedish Authority of Public Health (Fohm) on a recent report evaluating public health impacts of ELF-MF from high power voltage lines. The SSM made a statement of their current health risk evaluation based on reports from the WHO, IARC, SCENIHR, the Health Council of the Netherlands and the SSM scientific council for EMF, and presented their recommendations on the subject. Recommendations from Fohm are not expected to change, but it will stand as an important standard for extensive infrastructure planning that is planned in Sweden in the near future.

• New communication activities

This year, The SSM published a podcast concerning measurement techniques and the physics of EMF. Later this summer, a new episode concerning EMF and health risks will be published separately.

The Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation, an NGO sceptical to public exposure of EMF, has sent out information letters to Swedish municipalities sharing their view of the health risks of 5G and call on them to stop issuing building permits of 5G base station masts and revoke previous authorisations of permits. The SSM does not agree with their assessments, which the SSM considers to be misinformation. The SSM currently evaluates different routes for action in this matter.

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