2026 International Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting on Non-Ionizing Radiation

EMF – Report on activities in Sweden

- **Research activities related to EMF and health**

SSM just received a brain tumour incidence trend study from the research group of Maria Feychting at the institute for environmental medicine at the Karolinska institute. The project aimed to find incidence trends for glioma and meningioma in adults (20 years and above), as well as brain tumour incidence among children and adolescents (0-19 years) between the years 1985-2023, using Swedish cancer registry data. The study concludes that no brain tumour incidence increase that cannot be explained by changes in tumour classification or standards in reporting has been found. These results are in line with findings from other national and international studies of brain tumour incidence, and with results from large prospective cohort studies including the recent COSMOS study, where an increased risk of glioma or meningioma associated with mobile phone use could not be observed.

Currently, the Swedish radiation safety authority's (SSM) Scientific Council for Electromagnetic Fields are working on their twenty first report. Every year, the council, consisting 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. The report forms a basis for SSM to continuously follow up EMF research and evaluate current health risks that could be associated with EMF.

- **New relevant policies and legislations**

There has been no new Swedish legislation or policies in the EMF area during the past year.

- **New communication activities**

This year, SSM published two online training courses for municipal environment and health protection inspectors, a professional group that frequently receives questions from the public regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF) and health. One course focuses on magnetic fields from power lines, while the other addresses radiofrequency fields from mobile phone base stations.

The course on magnetic fields from power lines covers the basic physics of magnetic fields, typical exposure levels from power lines, current knowledge regarding health risks, relevant legislation and recommendations, as well as practical guidance on how to respond to questions from the public. The course on radiofrequency fields follows a similar structure and addresses corresponding topics related to RF-EMF exposure from mobile phone base stations.

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