Denmark

Report on EMF Activities

25th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF

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Research

The first results of the COSMOS prospective cohort study of mobile phone users have been published – one study on headache, tinnitus and hearing loss and another study on sleep quality. Both studies are based on Swedish and Finnish data. According to the authors, an indication of more common headache for heavy mobile phone users was substantially attenuated after adjustment for confounders, while no association was found between amount of call time and tinnitus or hearing loss. Insomnia was slightly more common among heavy users, which, according to the authors, is likely due to other factors associated with mobile phone use than EMF exposure.

Policies and legislation

Occupational and public exposures to EMF are minimized in accordance with internationally harmonized CENELEC standards, where reference levels are based on the 1999/519/EC recommendation. The formal responsibility for legislation regarding EMF exposure lies with the Danish Energy Agency (ENS), while the responsibility for general health information lies with the Danish Health Authority (SST).

Public concern

Public concern is still primarily in the area of telecommunications, such as mobile telephone base stations, whereas the debate about power lines, transformers and underground cables is a minor issue. The introduction of 5G is the main cause of public concern. SST is in a continuing dialogue with ENS to ensure that sufficient information is made available as the technology is introduced and tested.

The view of SST is that no health risks are anticipated if exposures are below reference levels. However, some questions still remain regarding the sparsity of literature on possible biological effects at higher frequencies.

Based on the available surveys published by ANFR and OFCOM regarding 5G MIMO-antennas in the 3,5 GHz frequency band, it is assumed that short-term exposure levels will be below the reference levels when network traffic is increased in the future. Measurements performed on a Danish test site antenna in Helsingør also indicate low short-term exposures.

Another key cause for concern is the rollout of smart meters in Denmark. The view of SST is that based on published literature, the everyday exposure from smart meters is assumed to be considerably smaller than exposure from e.g. base stations and WiFi networks nearby. The rollout has expectedly fostered resistance from the electrohypersensitive society.

Information

SST provides information related to exposures and health issues on their website. A close collaboration with ENS ensures consistent information on 5G and telecommunications exposures in general.

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