

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Report on EMF activities
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Legislation

According to the greek legislation, an approval concerning all environmental aspects related to each antenna installation foreruns the license for the construction of this installation. Hence, a technical study examining the environmental impact of a new antenna station should be submitted to the General Secretariat of each District, which in 10 days sends it to the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) asking for its expert opinion. In this study, the electromagnetic background in a 300m distance should be estimated before and after the installation of every new antenna station. With a ministerial decision published in March 2008, one year extension (until March 2009) was given to the owners of all antenna stations to get this approval.

A common ministerial act has been published in March 2008, defining the technical aspects and all relevant details concerning the measurements procedure which should be followed by all personnel performing EMF measurements in the vicinity of each antenna station in order to check compliance with the exposure limits as stated in the greek legislation. In this act, the procedure for the authorization by EEAE of all interested laboratories in order to perform in situ measurements on an annual basis in at least 20% of all the antenna stations installed in urban areas, has also been defined.

Public concern and national responses

The Minister of Transport & Communications has announced in April 2008 his intention for putting into force a new legislation that will establish at national level, a network of fixed and mobile measurement stations in order to continuously monitor the electromagnetic fields levels from all antenna stations. The results of this measurement network will be available via internet to every citizen.

Research

Research actions and programmes concerning biological effects, dosimetry and exposure assessment to electromagnetic fields are being performed in universities and research centers and are funded by the Greek government, the European Community and other international sources.

A common two year research project entitled: “Non-ionizing radiation: Evaluation of general public’s exposure in Greece & Albania and regulatory issues”, financed by the Greek Secretariat of Research and Technology and the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Albania with collaborating institutes the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) and the Institute of Nuclear Physics and the Radiation Protection Commission / Radiation Protection Office from Albania, has ended in the beginning of 2008.

Public information activities

Several workshops have been organised in the biggest cities of Greece, concerning biological effects of electromagnetic fields, open to the local authorities, the public and the media. The 1st Hellenic Congress on the Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation took place on May 24-25, 2008 in Thessaloniki.

WHO fact sheets have been translated by EEAE in Greek and will be soon available via internet to everybody interested.

Some new publications

1. Non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation monitoring in Greece. Gotsis A, Papanikolaou N, Komnakos D, Yalofas A, Constantinou P in: Ann. Telecommun. 2008; 63 (1-2): 109 - 123
2. The dielectric properties of human pineal gland tissue and RF absorption due to wireless communication devices in the frequency range 400-1850 MHz. Schmid G, Uberbacher R, Samaras T, Tschabitscher M, Mazal PR in: Phys Med Biol 2007; 52 (17): 5457 - 5468
3. SAR distribution in human beings when using body-worn RF transmitters. Christ A, Samaras T, Neufeld E, Klingensack A, Kuster N in: Radiat Prot Dosimetry 2007; 124 (1): 6 – 14.