

# **Ireland**

## **Report on EMF Activities**

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

**June 2004**

#### Research Activity

The main research project is that being undertaken by the Communications Regulator who is monitoring the exposure of the public to 400 mobile phone base stations across the country. The survey began in August 2003 and is expected to be completed before the end of June 2004. The results of the first 200 base station surveys are published on <http://www.comreg.ie>. An analysis of the overall results will be undertaken on completion of the survey.

#### Policy and Legislation

The third element of the EU Physical Agents Directive, the part dealing with limiting occupational exposure to EMF, was adopted by the Council and the European Parliament during the Irish Presidency of the EU (January to June 2004).

The standing Oireachtas (Parliamentary) Committee on Communications is planning an investigation of mobile phones and their potential adverse health effects. This investigation will be launched in September 2004. It is the intention of the Committee to bring forward its recommendations in this area to the Dail (the national parliament) and to the EU Commission early in 2005.

#### Public Concern

Concerns over power line fields continue to diminish.

Concerns over phone masts have also declined in recent months but it is too early to say if this is a definite trend.

Concerns over mobile phones are quite rare.

Only in the area of hypersensitivity attributed to microwave emissions from phone masts has there been an increase in concern in 2004 compared to 2003.

#### Information Activity

The web-site set up by the Communications Regulator <http://www.comreg.ie> to provide exact details of the physical location, height, ownership, and frequencies employed by every phone mast in Ireland (around 4000) has been up and running for nearly two years. It has helped to somewhat reduce concerns over proposed new phone masts when it is realised that no one is very far from one or more phone masts whether the new mast is built or not.

[Note prepared by Dr Tom McManus on behalf of the Chief Technical Advisor,  
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