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World Health Organisation
Dr Emilie van Deventer
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GENEVE - SUISSE

OPEN LETTER

Copy to :

- Dr Magaret CHAN, WHO General Director
- Mr John Ryan/DG Sanco, European Commission, Brussels
- Mr Rudy Demotte, Federal Health Minister, Belgium

REGISTERED LETTER

WHO EMF Project database and Epidemiological studies on mobile communication base stations

Dr van Deventer,

My name is Jean-Luc Guilmot, bio-engineer and concerned citizen with respect to EMF pollution. I have compiled during the last 6 months a great deal of fully referenced scientific information on this subject with a special focus on base stations on a dedicated website (www.001.be.cx) to help people get a global picture on this growing problem. I was present at the 3RD Mobile Communications Seminar "Health, Environment & Society in Brussels, on Nov. 20 and 21 where you unfortunately had to cancel your venue at the very last minute, which was rather unfortunate due to the many specific questions that could not be answered properly.

I have noticed that **the WHO EMF Project database has now been unavailable** on the Internet for more than a week, that is at least since November 21, 2006 (<http://www.who.int/peh-emf/research/database/en/index.html>)

I would like to kindly ask you several questions :

1. Why is no information provided on the WHO website as to why and for how long this database is not available ?
2. In reference to the rights to access to Information on the Environment, do you find this situation acceptable ?
3. When will this service be available again ?

I also would like to take the opportunity to ask you two more questions regarding EMF and base stations.

1. **Where are the published epidemiological studies on chronic exposure to *mobile telecommunication* base stations radiation's that show convincing evidence of an ABSENCE of adverse health effects ?** Please note that, as we believe no such studies has actually been published, none of the arguments such as "levels of exposure from these base stations lie well under the ICNIRP limit values" or "difficulties in assessing RF exposure on people" or "absence of known mechanism" can be considered as valid, especially when ICNIRP values are NOT designed for *chronic exposure* and when so many health concerns are being shown on both humans and animals in various *published* epidemiological studies of *chronic exposure*.
2. **Based on the EIGHT published epidemiological studies on mobile telecommunication base stations referenced either on the EMF WHO database and/or on PUBMED with POSITIVE results, please provide comments on what grounds in your views no further precautions is**

required. Again comments such as lack of accuracy of RF assessment (see footnote ¹) and lack of convincing evidence (convincing to whom ?) is of little value for several reasons :

- a. All these studies have been published in peer-review journals and are referenced either on the WHO database or on PUBMED.
- b. Several of these studies provide accurate RF exposure measurements.
- c. No higher standards published epidemiological study on mobile communication base stations with NEGATIVE results is available to date.
- d. Meanwhile hundreds of thousands (1,4 million in May 2006) of base stations have already been deployed worldwide and new sources of low level RF chronic exposure are continuously being added with the development of new wireless technologies.
- e. At least two additional epidemiological studies on chronic exposure to mobile phone bases stations with POSITIVE results have been published in peer reviewed journals on animals : Löscher W. 2003 and Balmori A. 2005.²
- f. An increasing number of people are being diagnosed as electrosensitive and the trend seems clearly to be on the increase.³
- g. To our knowledge, very little resources are being allocated towards more such *epidemiological studies* (chronic exposure) in the near future as either WHO or ICNIRP continue to deny or question the fact that low energy RF can affect health at all, as again exemplified in the May 2006 WHO fact sheet #304.

Additionally there are many more examples of epidemiological studies of radio and TV transmitters with POSITIVE results, also referenced on the WHO database and/or PUBMED, including the latest Altpeter et al (2006) study⁴ – with evidence of decrease of melatonin secretion on exposed humans – which urge for a rapid and clear change of attitude from the WHO.

Based on all this we consider that statements like : “*the weight of scientific opinion is that there is no substantiated evidence that living near a mobile phone base station causes adverse health effect*” increasingly sound more like Orwellian newspeak than anything else.

Also we believe that from a legal perspective, there is a major issue of the charge of the proof for the issuer of such increased levels of radiation’s in the environment, and not the other way round.

I look forward to reading your answers and comments on these very important issues.

Yours respectfully

Jean-Luc Guilmot
Bio-Engineer

Encl. : List of WHO and PUBMED epidemiological studies on mobile communication base stations with either negative (TWO) or positive results (EIGHT) as of September 15, 2006.

¹ Example of typical comment to rule out such studies : « *Results of these studies to date give no consistent or convincing evidence of a causal relation between RF exposure and any adverse health effect. On the other hand, the studies have too many deficiencies to rule out an association. A key concern across all studies is the quality of assessment of RF exposure. Despite the ubiquity of new technologies using RFs, little is known about population exposure from RF sources and even less about the relative importance of different sources* »

² Löscher W., Der praktische Tierarzt 84, Heft 11, 850-863 [2003]. Die Auswirkungen elektromagnetischer Felder von Mobilfunksendeanlagen auf Leistung, Gesundheit und Verhalten landwirtschaftlicher Nutztiere: Eine Bestandsaufnahme [*Effects of EMF from phone masts on performances, health and behavior of cattle*]; Balmori A., Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, 24: 109–119, 2005. Possible Effects of Electromagnetic Fields from Phone Masts on a Population of White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*).

³ Hallberg O, Oberfeld G., Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, Vol. 25: 189-191, 2006, Letter to the Editor: Will We All Become Electrosensitive?

⁴ Altpeter ES et al. Bioelectromagnetics. 2006 Feb;27(2):142-50. Effect of short-wave (6-22 MHz) magnetic fields on sleep quality and melatonin cycle in humans: the Schwarzenburg shut-down study

List of WHO and PUBMED epidemiological studies on mobile communication base stations with either negative (TWO) or positive results (EIGHT) as of September 15, 2006

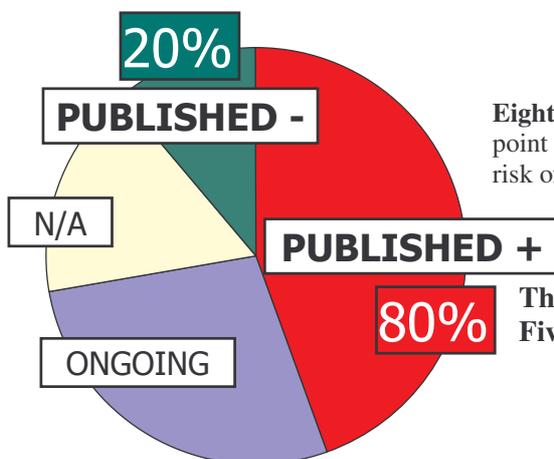
To date, there are only 10 *published* peer reviewed epidemiological studies on mobile phone base stations. These research papers are available either of the WHO EMF database (<http://www.who.int/peh-emf/research/database/en/index.html>) or on PUBMED.

WHO EMF database: (September 15, 2006)

1. [Santini R. et al.](#), *Pathol Biol (Paris)*. 2003 Sep;51(7):412-5. Symptoms experienced by people in vicinity of base stations: II/ Incidences of age, duration of exposure, location of subjects in relation to the antennas and other electromagnetic factors [[Pubmed](#)]
2. [Navarro EA et al.](#), *Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine*, 2003;22(2). The Microwave Syndrome : A Preliminary Study in Spain.
3. [Wolf D. et D.](#), *International Journal of Cancer Prevention*. 2004 Apr;1(2)Cancer near a cell-phone transmitter station
4. [Eger H. et al.](#), *Umwelt-Medizin-Gesellschaft*. 2004-Nov;17 (4): 326-335 Einfluss der räumlichen Nähe von Mobilfunksendeanlagen auf die Krebsinzidenz (*Influence of the neighbourhood of a cellular transmitter antenna on the incidence of cancer*)
5. [Siegrist M](#) et al., *Risk Anal.* 2005 Oct;25(5):1253-64, Perception of mobile phone and base station risks. [[Pubmed](#)]

PUBMED:

1. [Bortkiewicz A et al.](#) *Med Pr.* 2004;55(4):345-51. [Subjective symptoms reported by people living in the vicinity of cellular phone base stations: review] [[Pubmed](#)]
2. [Hutter HP et al.](#), *Soz Praventivmed.* 2004;49(1):62-6. Public perception of risk concerning celltowers and mobile phones. [[Pubmed](#)]
3. [Hutter, Kundi et al.](#) *Occup Environ Med.* 2006 May;63(5):307-13. Subjective symptoms, sleeping problems, and cognitive performance in subjects living near mobile phone base stations. [[Pubmed](#)]
4. [Abdel-Rassoul et al.](#), *Electromagn Biol Med.* 2006;25(3):177-88. Neurobehavioral effects among inhabitants around mobile phone base stations. [[Pubmed](#)]
5. [Schuz J](#) et al, *Radiat Res.* 2006 Jul;166(1 Pt 1):116-9. Radiofrequency electromagnetic fields emitted from base stations of DECT cordless phones and the risk of glioma and meningioma (Interphone Study Group, Germany). [[Pubmed](#)]



Eight out of ten (8 to 10) of these published peer reviewed studies point towards POSITIVE results : microwave syndrome, increased risk of cancer, absence of psychological factors, etc.

Only two out of ten (2 to 10, i.e. Siegrist 2005 & Schuz 2006) of these published papers point towards negative results : psychological factors or no increased risk of glioma.

Three reports are not available of the WHO database
Five studies : are reported to be ongoing.