

Bouygues Telecom* sets its own standard: 20 V/m

* Bouygues Telecom is a subsidiary of the worldwide Bouygues civil engineering group and is the third largest mobile phone company in France after Orange and SFR.

Next-up.org FRANCE 16 12 2009: In an interview in the national daily [Figaro](#), Olivier Roussat, Director General of Bouygues Télécom, declared that he is "ready to act" to set a new standard "that does not exist as yet: we are ready to promise not to surpass the threshold of 6 volts per metre in indoor living areas, as required by the new law in Italy."

Ever since it first got involved in mobile telephony, "little Tom Thumb" Bouygues Telecom has always been devious, but now that the health issue has to be faced, the time for diversionary tactics and creating confusion is gone.

Since [Bouygues Telecom's Scientific Council](#) [Fr] includes some of the great names in radiation danger denial, chief among them [André Aurengo](#) and [Bernard Veyret](#) [Fr], perhaps this explains this sleight of hand, for might not this crafty proposal have been one of their bright ideas?

In any case, Roussat's statement and the implicit acknowledgement that there is a problem is an amazing double first: it's the first time that the boss of a phone company has taken responsibility on this issue, or has said anything different from the usual message, as delivered for instance by Jean-Marie Danjou of AFOM (official organisation of French mobile phone networks), on the lines of: "The problem of standards is not the responsibility of the phone companies but of the health authorities; the network operators apply the current regulations."

In 2006 during the European Commission seminar in Brussels of [SCENIHR](#) (Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks), Jean-Claude Bouillet, Director of the Bouygues department of radio frequencies and protection declared: "At Bouygues the first thing we do every morning is read the latest Next-up news." To which Serge Sargentini responded: "That's an excellent thing to do, may it inspire them!"

More recently during an Ecoforum conference in Marseille, Bouillet, Bouygues' Mr Health, was sitting unobtrusively in a corner at the back of the room. The informal discussion with Serge Sargentini at the end of the meeting confirmed that it was "technically" impossible for Bouygues to set any emission limits other than those already in force.

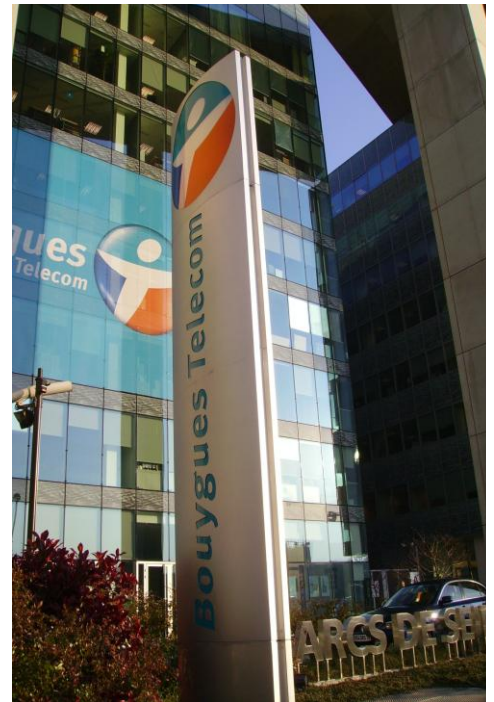
What's more, Bouillet was quick to defend [M. Repacholi](#), who is mainly responsible for the limits recommended by WHO and ICNIRP, and who in Bouillet's opinion does not deserve the public pillory and even mockery that he is exposed to. The good thing is that this proves the staff at Bouygues are taking a close interest in the NGO campaigns, and are therefore fully up to date on the fast-moving evolution regarding the health hazards of mobile phones.

Contrary to what many people think, to understand the true implications of this 6-line announcement made by Roussat in his *Figaro* interview, you have to be a specialist in mobile telephony. Unfortunately there are less than a dozen such people in France, hence the (unintentional) disinformation in this Bouygues proposal for a 6 V/m limit, which has hit the headlines in almost all the media, including AFP.

Instead of announcing that Bouygues is ready to impose "the threshold of 6 volts per metre in indoor living areas, as required by the new law in Italy", Roussat would have done better to avoid making a declaration that has indeed hit the headlines, but which may return like a boomerang to impact Bouygues.

It's not surprising that the uninformed, who make up the great majority in France, are not able to decipher what this proposal really means: 6 V/m in indoor living areas = a level outdoors of 20 V/m, or 100,000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$, against the present statutory limit of 61 V/m (UMTS-3G), or 10,000,000 $\mu\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ in power output.

In fact these proposed limits of 20 V/m outdoors and 6V/m indoors are both considerably higher than the limit indicated by Electromagnetic Compatibility (3V/m except in special cases), as well as that of the Paris Charter (2 V/m average) and the recommendation of the Tamino report of the European Parliament (1 V/m).



Bouygues Telecom headquarters (France)



Jean-Claude Bouillet, ("Mr Health")
Director of departement of radio frequencies
and protection at Bouygues Telecom



Olivier Roussat,
Director General of Bouygues Télécom

As far as public health is concerned, Bouygues Telecom knows full well, as do [more than 10,000 people](#) who have signed the petition in support of it, that the levels recommended by the BioInitiative scientific consortium are:

[0.6 V/m outdoors or 1,000 \$\mu\$ W/m² in power density, and 0.2 V/m indoors, or 100 \$\mu\$ W/m².](#)

It's significant that these BioInitiative limits are the result of a scientific assessment that is entirely compatible with maintaining a quality service, since even at [a few hundredths of V/m](#) mobile phones work perfectly well.



BioInitiative [\[report SWR TV UK version\]](#)

Let's take a closer look:

The example of Italy cited by Olivier Roussat is a good one but complicated because of the stricter legal standards applied:

In Italy the Decree n°381 of 1998 regulates exposure to radiation in frequencies from 100 kHz to 300 GHz. It stipulates that in the frequency range 3 MHz-3 GHz, which includes the 3 frequencies used for mobile phones (900 MHz, 1800 MHz and 2139 MHz for UMTS-3G) the limit is **20 V/m on average.**

It imposes a very restrictive limitation of 6 V/m in indoor living areas, explicitly in those classed as "sensitive in which people spend more than 4 hours per day, such as homes for the elderly, hospitals, schools, etc ..."

This regulation therefore specifies different levels of permitted radiation according to the amount of time the premises are occupied.

Due to pressure from an NGO named ADUC (Association for the rights of users and consumers) an additional clause that severely restricts the phone networks was included in the legislation, stipulating that no phone mast or antenna could be set up within 100 metres of a 'sensitive' building such as a school, hospital, etc.

These regulations have been imposed by the central government, but regional governments in Italy have the power to pass their own legislation, which explains why the lowest radiation limit in the world has been applied in Tuscany, of only **0.5 V/m, which is even lower than the BioInitiative recommendation.**



Antonio GAGLIARDI [présents Volturino \(Italy\)](#)

There is a wide range in the limits imposed in various parts of the world, for example:

In the canton of Salzburg in Austria and the city of Valence in Spain the limit outdoors is the BioInitiative one of 0.6 V/m; in Luxemburg and some parts of Belgium it is 3V/m; in Eastern Europe on average 6 V/m; in Russia 4.3 V/m; in China 6 V/m (in process of modification); in some parts of New Zealand 1-2.75 V/m; in Switzerland 4 V/m for the 900 MHz range and 6 V/m for 1800 MHz, and for both together in multi-band 5 V/m. In Lithuania, not only is the limit 100 times lower than in France for the 300 MHz-300 GHz range, but the networks are obliged to carry out an annual measurement of the EMFs around each relay antenna site.

The probable impact of different limits:

In practice, if the limits were reduced to 20 V/m (by Bouygues Telecom) or to 3 V/m (Electromagnetic Compatibility), the number of antenna sites affected would be less than 100, therefore negligible.

Similarly for a limit of 1 V/m (European Parliament) few antenna sites would be affected (8-10%), and in many a simple [alteration of the tilt angle](#) would be needed.

For a limit of V/m it is estimated that 12-20% of sites would be affected, of which a few percent would have to be dismantled.



EMF readings at the relay antennas in HLM 26-CREST FRANCE

In conclusion,

the director general of Bouygues, Olivier Roussat, declared: "The Italians are somewhat reassured by this limit. Bouygues Télécom is willing to adapt its network to apply the same regulation in France." This makes us think that this initiative is a diversionary tactic chosen under pressure and in the face of several current developments: the experiment in 16 cities and towns of the 0.6 V/m level (COMOP); the growing awareness of the dangers of mobile telephony

highlighted in the latest TNS Sofres survey on mobile phones (*dossier in preparation*); the results of the referendum in Liechtenstein (*negative*) on adopting the 0.6 V/m level (*dossier in preparation*); the large scale installation of FEMTOCELL personal UMTS relay antennas, which will drastically reduce the present number of antennas (*dossier in preparation*); the trend in the outcome of recent court cases; and finally the arrival of Free, the 4th network in France, a new company that will find it very hard to establish good coverage within these lower limits.

However we think that essentially this startling announcement from Bouygues is a publicity manoeuvre in response to the decision taken after the round table meeting on EMFs to experiment with reducing the radiation levels around phone masts to 0.6 V/m, or even much less.

Bouygues Telecom has chosen to take the initiative with a proposal that in fact looks more like "how to set about irradiating the public even more while looking as if you are reducing radiation" - or more subtly, "how to turn a setback into a move forward."

The Secretary of State for the Digital Economy Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet sees in this surprise gesture from Bouygues Telecom "the first fruit of the EMF talks" last spring and thinks that this proposal is "a good sign", but adds: "that progress still has to be made to reduce exposure levels gradually - six volts is still a lot."

Next-up Organisation

If Bouygues Telecom really wants to do something original to improve public health, they can start by introducing mobile phones and phone masts that don't emit any radiation - such things exist, but nobody knows about them!

For our part we would be glad to meet with them to discuss the possibilities.



Spectrum readings at [the Bouygues Telecom shop in Valence-France](#)



Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of Ecology, and Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet

16 December 2009: Public Health and Electrosmog: IMPORTANT WARNING

At present the widespread pollution of the environment by artificial EMFs from HF microwave radiation (electrosmog) in the range [900 MHz - 2,5 GHz is growing exponentially](#), completely out of control.

It is becoming obvious that this unchecked growth also has indirect consequences, which are not understood by the health authorities or the medical world from lack of specialized knowledge.

Next-up Organisation is issuing a general warning about the very serious illnesses that may be caused long term by vaccine adjuvants made from heavy metals, which can interact with this new type of pollution in our atmosphere. Similarly, the radiation from these EMFs can cause damage by reducing [ciliary activity](#) in the respiratory tract, which can increase the risk of asthma in predisposed people and in young children, as well as of congestion in the lungs and bronchii that can have serious consequences in someone already weakened by a viral infection or other illness. This reduced activity can also diminish the secretions required to irrigate the pancreas during sleep, and may be a factor in the escalation of cancer in this endocrine glade [[Dossier microwave syndrome](#)].