

André Antoine: "No more GSM phone masts"

The minister André Antoine is concerned about the health of people living near GSM phone masts.

NAMUR-At present there are more than 10,400,000 mobile phones in use in Belgium. The controversy over the risks to public health from the GSM network and GSM masts is getting more intense.

The Walloon minister of Town Planning, André Antoine, intends to provide better protection for the Walloons.

"We can no longer bury our heads in the sand," he insists. "The fields of radio frequency created by mobile phones and GSM masts are a real cause for concern.

As an elected politician, it is my duty to take my responsibilities seriously.

I have therefore decided to forbid the further development of new GSM phone masts. It's a matter of public health."

Specifically this means that the minister will not permit any more GSM phone masts to be installed in the Walloon Region except in special circumstances.

He declares: "The operators will no longer be allowed to install them unless they are integrated into their surroundings and unless they respect scrupulously the permitted limit of 3V/m."

In addition to these two new restraints, André Antoine intends to do even more to protect nearby inhabitants. **"An enquiry on the installation of a new phone mast,"** he warns, **"will have to last a month, and the operators will be obliged to provide local people with a summary of the technical and health issues in terms they can understand."**

"It is essential," he continued, **"that everyone living nearby realises what a GSM phone mast represents."**

Finally, I am currently considering the possibility of increasing the radius of notification of people living nearby. **At the moment this is 50 meters, which is not enough. I intend to have it increased to 100 or even 200 meters. I consider it my duty to take everyone's health into consideration."**

The assessment of the CDH minister is confirmed by two recent decisions: "First of all, the Health Council [Conseil Supérieur de la Santé] issued a demand that the permitted limit be reduced to 3 volts/metre. And then there was the discussion we had with the Inter-environment Agency on 8 October. **On this occasion, there was a large consensus for reducing the limit to this level."**

Vincent Lievin



The minister André Antoine (BELGA)

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- **Action that counts:** support the [scientific consortium BioInitiative = 0.6 V/m.](#)
 - **Help the Next-up organisation [to take action in the courts: thank you.](#)**