



Bundestagsfraktion

WLAN: Acting more than reacting ! (Wlan=WiFi)

The German Government must suit the action to the words

August 03, 2007

Our question has clearly shown that the Government is on favour of the caution principle by using WLAN applications. But that's only the beginning.

Looking at exposure as a whole

We should not consider only WLAN radiation, but all the high frequency electromagnetic fields as a whole, what is familiarly called electrosmog. For years, discussions has been led almost exclusively about mobile phone masts.

Nevertheless, other radiation sources like mobile phones, WLAN, wireless phones at home and in the office or more recent technologies like the digital radio network that we soon be used by the police or the digital TV network that has just been put in place, tend to be forgotten in the public debates.

This non-exhaustive list clearly shows that we should not examine one technology separately from the others and their respective radiation values.

We should consider the exposure to all different kinds of radiation sources as a whole.

Even if lots of users would rather close the eyes in front of this reality, it's not about raising the question of whether these electromagnetic radiations are dangerous for health or not.

For this an undeniable fact.

That is the reason why the Government has determined appropriate minimum exposure values in the 26th decree on emission reduction. It is not that we should eliminate these technologies, but we should think about the following question : how can we combine the precautionary principle in terms of users' protection and the maintaining of these new interesting technologies?

The aim is to reduce to the lowest level the entire exposure created by all existing types of radiation.

We should not underestimate the importance of the impact of WLAN that can be the main radiation factor under particular circumstances.

The Government declares : "the WLAN networks installed in a private and in a professional environment can indeed be the main radiation factor amongst the other radiation sources due to other radio services, when the distance to the Acces Point is not respected."

Reinforcing the liberty of choice

In our mind, it is important to maintain the liberty of choice.

That is the reason why the Parliamentary Group of Alliance 90' /the Greens call the Government for doing substantial efforts in the field of labelling the appliances. And this, despite the fact that the Government rejected our proposal for a better labelling of mobile phones. It is unacceptable that no electronic and electric device wears the label Blue Angel for low emission appliances. Even if the Environmental Report 2006 of the current Government falsely pretends the contrary .

The Government declaration on our question is in some points similar to the declaration of the German Federal Agency for radiation risk prevention. A few months ago, during a hearing at the regional Parliament of Bavaria, it gave a consequent answer. This led to the recommendation made by the regional Parliament with the aim of avoiding to a maximum WLAN in schools.

In fact, as an informed citizen, I can choose whether I want to use WLAN at home and raise the radiation exposure. But school children don't have the liberty of choice regarding WLAN. That's why we ask all other Länder to follow the example of Bavaria.

Continue scientific research

For the Alliance 90'/ the Greens, it is essential to continue the research on the consequences of the different kinds of radiation sources, as it has been done in the frame of the German research program on mobile phones.

Unfortunately the Big Coalition has rejected this proposal at the Environmental Committee meeting on July 4, 2007, overruling the voices of the opposition Parties that were in favour of this measure. This proposal included the maintaining of research, with the accent put on the consequences on the children and young people's health and the long-term research. Those points were exactly the points mentioned by the Federal Agency for radiation risk prevention at the occasion of the hearing at the regional Parliament of Bavaria.

The federal Government must take action right now

After the summer break, we will present to the Government a proposal in order to incite the Government to take action.

The Government must put implement a package of measures, including an active information policy, the maintaining of research, a clear and readable labelling and measures of risk minimization.

Those who recommend to minimize the using of WLAN by putting forward the precaution principle for health protection and in the same time do *not* practice any active precautionary policy, are not credible.