

MOBILE

“A law proposal to yield illegal the reject of mobile antennas installations.”

Bring in by Patrice Martin Lalande, Loire and Cher member of Parliament and co-president of the study group on Internet, the proposal has poor chances to be voted before the end of the legislature but could be put back in a law amendment in the next law on television for the future. (22/12/2006)

JDN. In the middle of December you have tabled a law proposition which aim was to cover the territory of France by mobile radio communication services. What are the reasons for this proposal ?



Patrice Martin-Lalande. “We must first notice that France has made huge improvement in ten years in the territory covering with mobile phone. The aim is to cover 85 %, then 90 % of the metropolitan population which was the previous assignment by the electronic telecoms and Post services (ARCEP) regulation authorities to the mobile operators and this is accomplished and even beyond. That’s why today it is necessary to define new objectives, and particularly in mobility situation. Now, informations brought back show that communications are still frequently interrupted when users move on major roads. This concern was yet taken into account by ARCEP in the new licences handover beginning 2006 to Orange and SFR. Those contain a general obligation of coverage by March 25, 2007, “*the operator must cover the priority transport axis, particularly the main roads of each department.*”

“However, no definition of priority transport routes exists. The law proposal aim is to specify that the covering must guarantee the service continuation all along the priority transport roads in the urban build-up areas for railway transport and motorways and outside of build-up areas for the other routes. The axis of priority transportation must be the national and international railway connections of the metropolitan territory, the urban transport of persons in appropriated sites (metro, RER, tramways, ...), the motorways, national routes, department routes on which circulate in an annual average at least 2 500 vehicles per day. The law proposal sets to June 30, 2008, the falling due date of the respect of the obligation to cover the department routes and give to an order in council the task to fix a calendar to reach the completed coverage of all department roads.”

JDN : “The article n° 2 of the law proposal wants to make illegal the reject of sitting of mobile phone relay antennas of the operators for sanitary security reasons. Is this article the result of a lobbying work from the operators ?”

P.M-Lalande : “No, it’s a rational article with which the aim is to forbid any freezing situation for useful equipment installation to the display of mobile coverage by misinformed public views or by elected persons obedient to this public opinion even when the antennas and its sitting comply with all international treaties and European and national regulations particularly with the radio electric broadcasting standards and electromagnetic field strengths. The supposed harmfulness of electromagnetic field produced by radio electric equipments is absolutely with no scientific grounds. A study from the scientific council of Paris on relay antennas for mobile phone, handover to the Paris Mayor on June 16, 2006, concluded : “*Up to now, no sanitary effect attributable to emitted radiation by antennas has been demonstrated.*”

JDN : “Do you think your law proposal has a chance to be registered before the end of the present legislature to the nation house of representatives ?”

P. M-Lalande : “ It’s going to be difficult but a law proposal can have many inclinations. If it’s voted, it will be fantastic. If not, its content can be brought back under an improvement in a law, like for instance the one of television of the future, which should be scrutinized in January 2007 at the House of Representatives. In any case, the fact of bringing this proposal will create a debate. I can tell you that this plan has already induced a great stir for mobile operators. I have met as well ARCEP, Christian Estori delegate minister for territory planning and François Loos delegate minister for industry before my proposal redaction. So even if the law is not voted, the operators have a good perception that there is a pressure for a better coverage of the territory for mobile phone.