

VALENCE (France): A City Council decree against phone masts

Almost flouting the law. Face to face with the phone operating companies - the modern conquerors of high buildings - the City Council refuses to bat an eyelid, whatever the cost.

They intend to forbid the installation of any new phone masts close to schools and crèches. It's a daring move when no written law in Europe forbids it or regulates any of the infrastructure that makes it possible to use a mobile phone.

Michèle Rivasi, the Environment Officer, does not care. After several confrontations with the SFR – Orange – Bouygues trio (Mobile Phone Operators), she slams a fist on the table:

«When I had a meeting a few months ago with the three companies, I had a outright "niet" to the idea of removing all the masts. Their argument is: "Nothing says that the masts have to be moved." In a word, it was a stormy encounter and didn't turn out well. I even demanded that one of them who insulted the elected members leave the room."

The seed of this decree was sown a while ago in June. It will be submitted to the Council vote on Monday. "The mayor has decided to forbid placing any masts within a range of 100 metres of any school or crèche," Michèle Rivasi explains. "It's a first." On the national scene not so, Colomiers having already taken action in this respect (see below). But in this region, yes it is.

Political unanimity

Another rarity: the political unanimity that reigns on this subject. Nicolas Daragon (UMP and opposition) has already promised a majority: "We are entirely in agreement, we will vote and take action alongside you." Valence is thus nailing its colours to the mast for several reasons, as Michèle Rivasi explains: "First of all because of the scientific BioInitiative report, which proves the dangers of electromagnetic fields especially on the nervous system. Number two: a resolution passed by the European Parliament demanding the reduction of permitted radiation levels. Three, the principle of precaution. And finally, I shall insist on the fact that the many opposition groups that are forming could eventually cause a disruption of public order." This move which is in the works is already making the operators nervous. Apparently SFR is considering court action.

The Colomiers Story

At Colomiers (France) in 2002, the City Council passed a decree fixing the conditions under which mobile phone masts could be installed within its jurisdiction, but the Conseil d'État annulled it. In early December, when SFR wanted to install a mast, they found themselves barred from the site by the local residents. To back them up the mayor passed a decree suspending the works.



Take effective action and [help Next-up organisation](#) in its campaign to get the BioInitiative standard adopted
[0,6V/m, Why ? \(click\)](#)

