SHALL WE BE AFRAID OF WIRELESS NET?

THE WIFI, DANGEROUS? Risky, the intensive use of mobile phone at home? Experts say so!

Mobile phones at home, GSM relay antennas, WiFi or GSM: today’s technologies and their electromagnetic fields. Are they dangerous for health? The question remains a very polemic question. But appeals for caution from specialists are repeated: they recommend if not the ban of modern communication's means a hardening of standards. A about twenty scientists, drawn up an alarmist report: “The deployment of wireless technologies without precaution is probably risky. . . Steps to reduce the exposure linked to existing systems must be initiated.”

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LES APPELS AFIN DE DURCIR les normes se multiplient. En Allemagne, la prudence est recommandée à domicile.

颇有争议的电磁波安全性的科学委员会于本周警告了关于电磁波辐射对健康的影响。委员会主席表示，目前的研究并不足以证明电磁波辐射对健康有害。但是，许多科学家担心电磁波辐射可能会对人类健康造成潜在威胁。因此，各国政府和国际组织正采取措施以减少电磁波辐射的风险。国际无线电委员会已经发布了新的规范，限制了对公众的电磁波辐射。同时，世界各国都在研究新的技术，以减少电磁波辐射的使用。
Les risques des ondes pulsées recensés dans une nouvelle étude américaine

Alarm signals for WiFi.

SCHOUne,CHRISTOPHe  Wednesday 05 september 2007

“Calls for standards to be tougher are repeated. In Germany, the caution is recommended at home.”

Increased risk of child leukaemia, brain cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, hearing disorders, many nervous problems, ADN modification, sleep troubles, it’s a new alert message sent by twenty American scientists, doctors for most of them.

Published last Friday, their voluminous report « Bio Initiative » (http://www.bioinitiative.org) is making a summary of one hundred studies devoted to the sanitary impact of electromagnetic fields on humans: “The display without restriction of WiFi is probably at risk and will be difficult to counter if civil society do not take any quick decisions on new exposure standards limits, the report concludes.

As it’s not realistic in a short time to rebuild all electrical wiring, steps in order to reduce the exposure linked to existing systems must be initiated and encouraged specially in places where children spend a lot of time.”

You can’t see it, you can’t smell it, and you can’t taste it? “Electromagnetic pollution is however the exposure the most invasive at which human being are subjected in the occidental countries, the experts note. Our society can’t give itself the luxury of waiting before acting”

Waiting is however the World Health Organisation credo, whose reassuring speech (read page 3) is at the exact opposite to concern scientific signs sent from already six years (by Fribourg Appeal in 2002, Helsinki in 2005, Benevento in 2006).

A new echo of this fear is the debate on possible banishment on WiFi systems in U.K.’s schools. On the other hand, the German government just advises against the use of WiFi at home and “to prefer as much as possible the use of traditional line solutions over the WiFi connections”

And what in Belgium? “We are working actually on a new note devoted to this question”, Prof André Vander Vorst explains, he is a member of the Health Upper Council in Belgium and in Holland. “It should be completed by December. I will simply recall that if we want to act in a cautious manner, it must be admitted to consider the total exposure at which an individual can be exposed. That’s why the Federal Upper Council had recommended in 2002 to not go over 3 volts per meter — in any place and at any moment.”

Disregarding this recommendation, the leaving federal government had chosen to adopt a royal bylaw to impose the telephone operators to not go over 20.6 volts per meter. Six times more over the advocated scientific recommendations, but two times less than the maximum value advocated by WHO.

“The WHO guidelines are obsolete and take only into account the health EMF’s thermal effects”, Jean Delcoigne from Teslabel fulminates. “Now the health effects are already felt at levels well below 3 volts per meter recommended by the Health Upper Council.”

Teslabel Association that had bring an appeal to the Conseil d’Etat (Council of State), hopes to edit again the annulment of federal standards like in 2005 and to confront the new government to the necessity to work on new standards in spite of the industry’s screams.
Meanwhile, the electromagnetic fog is more and more dense: 8,000 relay stations are recorded on the Belgian soil—and if we believe the forecast concerning the Third Telephone Generation (3G), this number should increase by 50% up to the end of the decade.

Alert then? “We stress on risks coming from WiFi, but to my opinion, the wireless digital phone of the DECT type used at home by individuals is a greater danger, André Vander Vorst considers. This technology inherited from the industry allows handling simultaneously ten or so communications and transmits 24 hours a day in houses. So the intensity of the emitted field is largely above the radiation from the GSM antennas.”

Shall we therefore privilege the old good wireless? For the Belgian Scientist, extreme caution must exercised waiting 2015, the date at which the time spent will be enough to evaluate the global impact on health from the mobile phone. And in default to be able to prevent some technologies like DECT type phones, the Member of the Upper Council expects from Public Authorities they impose to the constructors to inform the consumer about the wireless phone and other baby phones powers.

Before maybe one day to see this notice: “This telephone can harm seriously your health”

“A world health evaluation in 2010.”

Interview.

Emilie van Deventer is in charge of the electromagnetic radiation record at WHO in Geneva. This woman from Holland took over last year from sulphurous Michael Repacholi accused by many scientists and many non governmental organisations to have privileged the industry’s expectations...

The German government just recommended using in priority the wired connections at home. What do you think of this recommendation?

WHO is not taking a stand in relation to what is made at national level. We adopt recommendations …

Those recommendations in the mobile phone field are from 1993. They are criticized for being obsolete …

Do you know the persons and their expert reports on this subject?

This is not the purpose: these organisations consider their claims scientifically justified and legitimized…

We have published aide-memory on the subject in 2006. Our position was not changed since …“That any scientific conclusive element does not exists to confirm possible harmful effects from base stations and from WiFi net…”

Yet series of studies available on your data base testify the opposite…

We wait for an epidemiologic study’s results in relation to the use of cellular phone. This study was produced in thirteen countries and it includes thousand of people. This statistic power is going to give us an idea of what is going on since the mobile phone explosion. The data collection is finished. The International Research Against Cancer must present his results before 2008.

WHO can it continue to maintain that there is no risk, in front of the amount of publications that point out the effects linked to electromagnetic exposure?

There are negative and positive studies. It’s not white and black. What the WHO try to make is to revue the entire studies published at this date and to evaluate their scientific quality. And it must be said that some studies showing effects are criticisable in the method used. For what concerns the child leukaemia, when we put animals in laboratory, we are not able at the moment to set up the link …

Can you tell when this process will be achieved?

This evaluation of great extend, that will not be limited to the cancer issue, will be brought out before 2010.

Meanwhile, Belgium as Europe follows the guidelines of the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). It’s this organisation that was determining the exposure limits. Caution is probably better than its opposite, but one must avoid simplifying this dispute …

Subjects collected by CHRISTOPHE SCHOUNE.
“It was as if I had a storm in my head”

When he opens the door, Michel has a big smile. Zen. But he has been hesitating, Michel. Because receiving us was meaning to recall all steps of what was a nightmare. Nightmare? The word is nothing but excessive for this commercial engineer who got lost in a smog of electromagnetic fields in a morning of 2003.

“I was a user of GSM in good health, he says. I was living abroad and I came in Rixensart, Walloon Brabant. As I fit out, I bought two DECT telephones (wireless home stations). At the time we started living in this house, I was down with sleep disorders. I woke up sweating with my body clammy. What was strange was that when in London where I was living one week on two, I slept like a log…”

Headache, vision tiredness, ear sizzling, irritability … At each of his come back, the Michel’s symptoms are added to his chronic sleep disorders without anything he could do for. “In three occasions I was near an epilepsy crisis, he relate in details. It was like I had a storm in the head …”

After he turned everything upside down in his house and visited some doctors … after eighteen months Michel questioned finally about a link between his problems and the relay antennas sited in front of his building. Measurement gave two volts per meter : below the standards …but above the endurable.

“I rang to the neighbour and I realised that we were many to live the same hell, he continued. Some of them were even more struck than I. And we started a fight against this antenna …”

Even our vacancy choice is made in relation to this pollution.

The removal of his wireless phones and of the relay antennas at the beginning of July 2004, gave him a break in his sufferings. He came down a peg rapidly. The installation of new relay antennas accelerated his descent to hell.

“I felt so bad that it ends to a divorce. I became a fibro-myalgic. Even if I feel better, I keep a very strong electro sensibility. And I must be very alert. When I go somewhere, I ask for some sympathy from my hosts to whom I ask to cut their wireless systems. Otherwise symptoms reappear quickly…”

Remarried, and living in the country in Hainaut, Michel refuses to live cloistered, to like many other electro sensitive. He cross his finger: no other relay antenna is threatening his health at the moment.

“But I know that I am not at under shelter of an extension of the network, he emphasizes. Even the choice of vacations is controlled by this pollution. I can’t take anymore the highways to the sea, riddled with antennas. So I go to the Côte d’Opale…”

CH. Sc.
Les moineaux mâles déchanteant

S'il semble que les moineaux mâles soient de plus en plus friands de chats et de lapins, il pourrait s'agir d'une conséquence de la transformation de leur habitat. Les recherches récentes montrent que les moineaux mâles sont de plus en plus attirés par les chats et les lapins, ce qui pourrait être dû à des changements dans leur environnement. Les scientifiques suggèrent que les moineaux mâles pourraient être plus susceptibles de se déplacer vers les zones urbaines, où les chats et les lapins sont plus courants. Cela pourrait entraîner un changement dans leur comportement et affecter leur survie et leur reproduction.