

GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
RULING BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT



[Appeals nos. 22498](#) [Fr]
brought by the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
and by the Company of Postes & Télécommunications
against a decision by the Administrative Tribunal

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Policy and Health

Crauthem will have lasting consequences

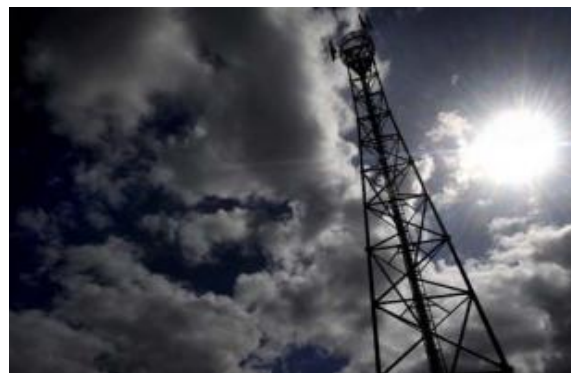
23 02 2010

A recent ruling by the administrative court has restarted the heated debate over relay antennas. The party Déi Gréng talks about "a smack in the eye for the phone networks and the previous government".

For the two Green Party deputies Camille Gira and Jean Huss it is now more urgent than ever to review the present plans for this sector.

From our correspondant Olivier Landini

The ruling given last July 14 by the administrative court in Luxembourg will probably cause more than a few ripples in the mobile phone industry. In effect it has confirmed the decision from the first hearing in the case that two residents of the town of Crauthem brought against the State and the company of Postes & Télécommunications.



In 2007 the State authorized a mobile phone company to install and use six additional relay antennas emitting electromagnetic radiation in the urban area of Crauthem.

The story started with the authorisation given by the State to the Postes & Télécommunications for the installation and use of 6 additional emitters of electromagnetic radiation near the water tower in Crauthem. This new group of antennas, sited at only 270m from their home, immediately set off alarm bells with a couple of local residents.

A change of paradigm

On 14 November 2007 the administrative tribunal in Luxembourg ruled in favour of the couple.

But the State did not wish to let the matter drop and lodged an appeal. Last July 14 the administrative court confirmed the first judgement. "This ruling is essentially a smack in the eye for the phone networks and the previous government that drew up the plans for this sector," declared Jean Huss, deputy for the Déi Gréng, yesterday in a press conference.

In its ruling the court not only declared that the installation of the new antennas should have been subject to a public hearing, but it also refers to the **precautionary principle**. For the Déi Gréng, this represents "a real change of paradigm".

The court went even further, pointing out an error of calculation regarding the permitted threshold of exposure to electromagnetic radiation that calls into question the present limit: "The claim (...) that Luxembourg has the strictest regulations in Europe is shown to be untrue."

For **Déi Gréng**, it is now more than ever obvious that a new plan for this sector must be made and it calls on the government to do so.

The Green Party in particular are arguing for the establishment of a new permitted limit of about 0,6 V/m (currently 3 V/m). It should also become the rule to hold a public enquiry. In addition the State should establish areas free of all radiation [White Zones – ed.] and finally, should carry out regular control readings on the installations in question.