

The first ruling will reduce radiation from relay antennas by 4000 times

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During its latest session the Municipal Council of Leganés (a major suburb southwest of Madrid, the third largest town in the region), approved a new motion intended to regulate the installation of mobile telephony relay antennas, a "first" in Spain to resolve this problem, since they will now have to emit the lowest possible level of radiation, about 4,000 times less than at present.

Fulfilment of this ruling will be followed and guaranteed by the Committee for Public Works, Measurements and Surveillance, which will provide "real time" data to residents thanks to a sophisticated observation network.

Raúl Calle, the councillor for Town Planning and Industry, declared that the emission from relay antennas should be determined according to "the European standard" on which the ruling is based, for "an emission density with maximum peak of 0.6 V/m or 0.1 microwatt by centimetre square" [[the BioInitiative Report](#)].

More than a year of work went into the preparation of the document, produced in conjunction with the Federation of local residents' groups, who will be able to keep watch over the mobile phone installations and check that the new limit is being respected.

This surveillance will be "specially focused on sensitive places such as the interior of public housing, workplaces, schools, homes for the elderly, hospitals, and in fact on all the places where people are likely to spend 6 or more hours (dose in relation to time)", declared Calle.

To ensure that the ruling is respected and check that all the relay antennas conform to the new regulations, the Committee plans to create a system that will allow residents to access the information on the siting of base stations and the intensity of radiation emitted by the antennas.

According to the councillor, this system will enable "all the local residents to have all the facts all of the time, and to know not only where the antennas are but for instance how much radiation is being emitted close to their home or their children's school".

Control network

In order to achieve this, the new ruling will make it possible for the radiation level from mobile telecommunications to be checked by the Town Hall via a network of measuring devices placed in strategic points.

"We are not going to rely only on inspections but on permanent surveillance thanks to our network of radiation meters," added Calle.

For his part, the spokesperson of the Federation of residents' groups, Juan Antonio Sánchez, affirmed that the importance of this ruling resides specifically in "the ongoing surveillance of electromagnetic pollution".

A source in the mayor's office commented that in spite of the guaranteed reduction of permitted radiation levels, these are still "entirely adequate for optimum mobile phone coverage in all areas of the town". It was emphasised that "the objective is not to restrain or hinder the legitimate activate of the phone networks in the area but to safeguard the health of our citizens".



Raphael Gómez Montoya mayor of Leganés
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MADRID; relay antennas and Hertzian repeaters photo: Juan Luis Jaén