



THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

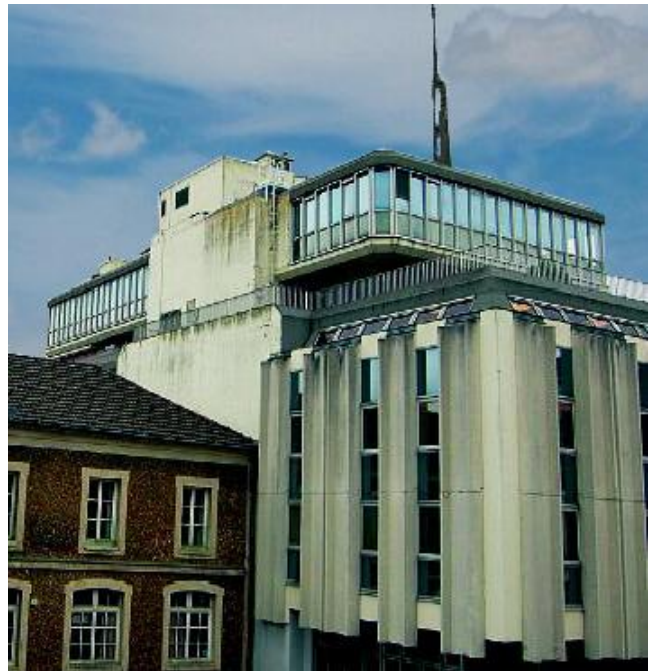
The Town Council disconnects the Orange relay antenna on the roof of the Town Hall

At the beginning of May the Town Council deactivated the Orange relay antenna on the roof of the council offices in the name of the precautionary principle. It might do the same on another building for which it is responsible.

In May 1997 Jean-Pierre Foucher, at the time Mayor of Clamart (France), signed a 9-year contact with France Telecom, agreeing to the installation of an antenna for the Orange mobile network on the roof of the Town Hall and on another building.

At his election in 2001, Philippe Kaltenbach, the present mayor, decided not to let the mobile phone companies keep the antennas on the roof of these two buildings, and to allow antennas only on private buildings that are at least 100m away from a school or crèche.

(cf. EU Recommendation 99/519 and decree n° 2002-775).



Clamart Town Hall with its antenna

It so happens that the council offices on which the relay antenna was installed are very close to two schools and not far from a crèche. The Council thus cancelled the original agreement on 21 October 2005, but granted Orange several months' notice in order to give them time to find an alternative site. France Telecom should thus have removed the antenna by 5 May 2006. Nothing doing. The notice was renewed, still nothing doing. After 3 years the Council decided at the beginning of May to disconnect the antenna themselves.

Many of the locals are now complaining, with good reason, that the Orange network is not working well. The Council hopes very much that Orange will soon suggest a solution.