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Château-Thierry. France

The Orange relay antenna is still emitting radiation Les Chesneaux schools are closed this morning

The nursery and primary schools at Les Chesneaux have been closed until further notice. The Town Council is upholding the precautionary principle.

On arriving at school this morning, the children of Les Chesneaux found the doors closed. On the notice boards was an A3 copy of the decree issued by the Town Hall on Saturday 2 May closing the nursery and primary school, which read as follows: "The schools will be closed as of Monday 4 May until a decision has been made that conforms to the various demands for relocation of the antenna."

The Town Council is in a real trial of strength with the phone operator Orange, who made it known that they would not stop the emission from the antenna when the school term started again.

The mayor Jacques Krabal had already declared, "I won't be the mayor who lets our children be put at risk." He is actively putting the precautionary principle into practice by keeping the schoolchildren away from the hazard of electromagnetic fields.



The mayor of Château-Thierry Jacques Krabal presents the decree closing the schools.

This morning the 180 children who arrived at school were taken by bus to the leisure centre at the Mare Aubry. "In order to avoid any inconvenience for their families, the children will all be taken care of during school hours. We plan to provide educational activities and school meals until we have won our case," explained the mayor.

Only the Préfet has the power to annul the municipal decree to close the schools. The primary school inspectorate could also take responsibility for restarting classes.

"We regret that the operator has turned a deaf ear," the mayor continued.

"We thought that the meeting at the local authority headquarters would make them revise their position," sighed Marie-Jeanne Potin.

The local councillors and the head of the regional council are still determined to continue the battle to get the antenna dismantled.

"This is not our last shot," warned Jacques Krabal.



The Orange phone mast and antennas.

"On Monday we are bringing an action in the civil court because we have been badly treated by Orange." If everyone agrees, the action group Priartem Les Chesneaux will be joint plaintiff in the action brought by the town. The main ground for the case: the non-respect of the distances stipulated in the technical specification.

The antenna will be sited less than 87 metres from the school buildings. This installation, which is supposed to improve the telephone network, will in fact be used for the installation of the 3 G (UMTS). "They have been caught red-handed telling lies on the local authority premises," commented Marie-Jeanne Potin. "Orange ought to feel a duty to uphold honesty and transparency."

Isabel da Silva



4 May 2009: Demonstration in front of the Orange shop in the pedestrian zone of Château-Thierry.



Crown Court of Nanterre
JUDGEMENT

Crown Court of Nanterre (TGI) - France : Citizens living near phone masts vs. Bouygues Telecom.

Extract from the Judgement given on 18 September 2008 [Judgement PDF page 4]:

"Reason for the decision: the health risk.

"To expose one's neighbour against his will to a certain risk, and not a hypothetical one as the defence has claimed, constitutes in itself a public nuisance. Its egregious character is due to the fact that it has a bearing on human health.

"If this risk were to materialise in significant health problems, this would constitute a different type of offence deserving a more severe sentence, in accordance with the gravity of the problems."





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