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Mr Combe-Sargentini  
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26400 Crest  
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23 November 2006

Dear Mr Combe-Sargentini,


Thank you for your open letter of October 2006 to the Acting Director-General, who has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is committed to assessing health risks produced by technologies emitting electromagnetic fields (EMF). The work of WHO is carried out through the involvement of leading scientists and public health experts on its committees and in its Secretariat. In this regard, it is appropriate that the founder of ICNIRP, an independent non-profit scientific body whose aim is to disseminate information and advice on the potential health hazards of exposure to non-ionizing radiation, would have served as Coordinator of WHO activities in this area.

The WHO International EMF Project is primarily involved in assessing health risks from EMF and providing research and policy recommendations to its Member States, and not in direct sponsorship of research. The US \$250 million that you mention in your letter is funding that is estimated to have been spent not by WHO, but by national governments and research institutes in an effort to fill knowledge gaps highlighted by the WHO Research Agendas. WHO reviews of this research, conducted through independent, scientific peer-review groups, are being published in three separate monographs, the first of which was published in January 2006, and the remaining two are slated for release in 2007 and 2008. Details of WHO activities in EMF, including the 2005 Melbourne regional meeting, are public information, and as such are posted on the WHO website ([www.who.int/emf](http://www.who.int/emf)).

We regret that a meeting with the Acting Director-General will not be possible at this time.

Yours sincerely,

  
Dr M. Neira  
Director  
Department of Public Health  
and Environment