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27/05/2011

**Standing Committee****PACE calls on governments to 'take all reasonable measures' to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting in Kyiv at Standing Committee level, today called on European governments to "take all reasonable measures" to reduce exposure to electromagnetic fields, especially to radio frequencies from mobile phones, "and particularly the exposure to children and young people who seem to be most at risk from head tumours".

According to parliamentarians, governments should "for children in general, and particularly in schools and classrooms, give preference to wired Internet connections, and strictly regulate the use of mobile phones by schoolchildren on school premises", and put in place information and awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of potentially harmful long-term biological effects on the environment and on human health, especially "targeting children, teenagers and young people of reproductive age".

Following the proposals of the rapporteur (Jean Huss, Luxembourg, SOC), the Assembly called on governments to provide information on potential health risks of DECT-type wireless telephones, baby monitors and other domestic appliances which emit continuous pulse waves, if all electrical equipment is left permanently on standby. They should, instead, recommend "the use of wired, fixed telephones at home or, failing that, models which do not permanently emit pulse waves".

Governments should "reconsider the scientific basis for the present electromagnetic fields exposure standards set by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection, "which have serious limitations" and apply as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) principles.

The adopted resolution underlines the fact that "the precautionary principle should be applicable when scientific evaluation does not allow the risk to be determined with sufficient certainty" and stresses that "the issue of independence and credibility of scientific expertise is crucial" to achieve a transparent and balanced assessment of potential negative impacts on the environment and human health.

■ [Adopted text](#)