



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Deputy Director General for Health responsible for Directorates B and C
The Deputy Director-General

Brussels
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Dear Prof Nyberg, dear Dr Hardell,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October 2019 to Mr Arūnas Vinčiūnas, Head of Cabinet of former Commissioner Andriukaitis, in which you raised your concern about the potential adverse health effects of electromagnetic fields.

Further to our previous correspondence, I can now confirm that the revised guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection will be published very shortly.

Once the new guidelines are out, the Commission could refer them to the Scientific Committee on Health, Environment and Emerging Risks for an opinion as regards the need to review the Council Recommendation.

A second option is to refer the guidance to the Scientific Advice Mechanism for an opinion, which would cover both public health protection and the necessary legislative changes.

The Scientific Advice Mechanism consists of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, an expert group of the European Commission that provides independent scientific advice to the College of European Commissioners to inform their decision making, an administrative Unit within the Commission, and the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies consortium. The consortium consists of the 5 European Academy Networks bringing together the outstanding knowledge and expertise of Fellows from over 100 Academies and Learned Societies in over 40 countries across Europe and spans the disciplines of engineering, humanities, medicine, natural sciences and social sciences.

As regards the point of the impartiality of the Scientific Committee on Health, Environment and Emerging Risks, a point which we have already extensively covered in

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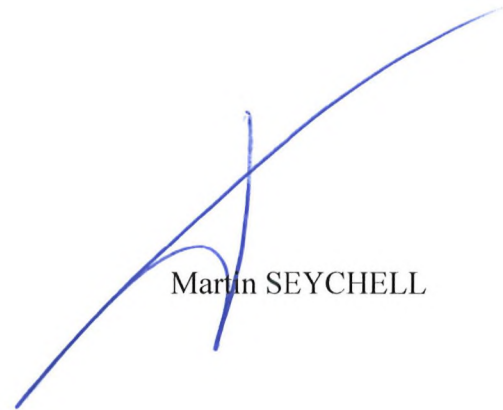
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previous correspondence but which you now raise again, let me recall that the Commission takes great care to ensure that the work of this important Committee is subject to stringent rules. For example, the Commission carefully cross-checks that any conflict of interest which a member of the Committee may have on a specific topic is immediately declared. Such a conflict will in any case lead to the immediate exclusion of such a member from any further engagement. This approach has been acknowledged by the European Ombudsman as good administrative practice.

As regards your point of the availability of scientific literature, please be informed that the Commission is advised by its scientific bodies, such as the Scientific Committee on Health, Environment and Emerging Risks or the Scientific Advice Mechanism. These bodies are, of course in position of or have access to all the available scientific literature that is needed to carry out sound and unbiased evidence based risk assessment in their specific areas of competence. It is simply impossible to cite in my reply all the literature that is relevant for appropriate risk assessment in the wide area of electromagnetic fields and may be used by the Commission's scientific bodies.

Let me finally reassure you that the Commission will keep abreast of future developments in view of safeguarding the health of the European citizens at the highest level possible and in line with its mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Martin SEYCHELL