

**News**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMF  
– FROM BIOEFFECTS TO LEGISLATION –**

LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA, 8 – 9 NOVEMBER 2004

The International Conference on Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF): “From bioeffects to legislation”, hosted at Mons hotel in Ljubljana, was organized by the Institute of Non - Ionizing radiation from Slovenia (INIS), WHO, EU EMF NET project of and some other international organizations. Although the conference addressed mainly to European countries legislation, there were many participants from other continents. About 140 scientists attended the International Conference on EMF.

The main goal of the EMF conference was to discuss the strategies for development of exposure limit values in EMF standards currently in force in EU, new EU member states and some candidate Members of the EU. Some differences as well as similarities of the national health and safety standards and the main obstacles to harmonization of these standards with those being established by national and international organizations and agencies were discussed.

The invited speakers addressed to the most commonly asked question: Do current EU recommendation and directive provide sufficient protection against EMF exposure? This question is particularly important since some new EU member states use different limit values in their standards and

legislation in the field of EMF. The approach in some new EU member states is interpreted by many as application of the precautionary principle, but has nothing to do with it. National and international experts emphasized that the reason for divergence is that some Eastern standards are based on a different scientific database for biological and health short-term effects.

A panel of recognized national experts has been assembled to present the state of the science in the field of EMF in new EU member states – Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary – and candidate Members of the EU – Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania. National experts had presentations on current situation in their countries in relation to EMF standards and legislation including review of the current research activities in those countries.

European Coordination Action EMF NET organized a special session “Monitoring the Activities in Third States” that had two main sections:

- “Monitoring the Dose rate Concepts within Third States” and
- “Monitoring the Regulations within Third States”.

Coordinators of EMF NET underlined the importance of organizing the activity of protection against exposure

## News

to EMF at national level and the need of transparency for the national authority in this field.

Such discussions were specially needed for the new EU Countries that have to confront with the EU Recommendation of July 2001, and the EU Directive for workers of April 2004. The distinguished invited speakers discussed the sound scientific background

of the EMF guidelines, suggested models for universal legislation, and provided advice to the governmental representatives how to manage the EMF issue.

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