

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001588/25
to the Commission
Sergio Berlato (ECR)
(22 April 2025)

Subject: Artificial electromagnetic pollution

In 2001, a study by the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) team, on health damage caused by electrosmog, recommended that scientists, governments, industry and the general public have access to decision-making processes and that an effective public information system be established with a view to preventing public mistrust and fear of new EMC technologies. A number of years later, on 31 May 2011, the World Health Organisation reported in a press release that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) had '[classified] radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B)'.

In recent years, the exponential growth in artificial electromagnetic sources, such as the use of electric public and private transport, the spread of 5G and Wi-Fi in every home and public area, has effectively increased and generated new 'electromagnetic pollution'.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission believe that it can harmonise EU legislation in the Member States using both its own parameters and up-to-date data, and with a focus on the cellular consequences for living beings to electromagnetic exposure?
2. Is the Commission considering assessing and informing the public of the impact of electromagnetic pollution on all ecosystems?
3. Lastly, does it believe that climate change and the green transition can be delivered by carrying out the requisite identification of parameters responsible for 'biological damage' and the severity thereof?

Submitted: 22.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2025)

At the EU level, Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC ⁽¹⁾ sets basic restrictions and reference levels to guide the Member States on ensuring protection of the general public from exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), in line with the guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection adopted in 1998. The Commission regularly mandates independent scientific experts to assess new scientific evidence.

In its most recent Opinion ⁽²⁾, the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks concluded that there is no moderate or strong level evidence of adverse effects on human health from exposure to electromagnetic fields in the radio frequency range (100 kHz to 300 GHz) at levels below the limits set in the annexes to Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC.

Therefore, there does not appear to be any risk from the development of wireless technologies using these frequencies within the recommended limits, including 5G.

At present time, EU legal acts on EMF aim to ensure a high-level of protection of the general public in line with international standards, but an independent assessment of the impact on climate and the environment is not included.

⁽¹⁾ Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999 on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz), OJ L 199, 30.7.1999, p. 59 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31999H0519>.

⁽²⁾ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-06/scheer_o_044.pdf.