New legislations and policies

- According to the provisions of a new Law published in December 2014 (No. 4313, Act No. 271/A/17.12.2014), the antenna owners will be charged with the sum of 220€ for each base station on an annual basis, as a fee for the verification of compliance of their radiofrequency emissions with the legislated EMF exposure limits. This verification is accomplished, as already legislated by: a) the in situ measurements performed by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) or other authorized by it laboratories, in the vicinity of (at least) 20% of all the antenna stations installed in urban areas every year, and b) through the National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields (established by law in 2012), which is a network of fixed, semi-fixed and mobile measurement stations in order to continuously monitor the EMF levels from antenna stations all over Greece. A part of this annual fee of 220€ is foreseen to cover also the expenses of the municipal authorities that are going to be involved in the operation of this network. It is also provisioned that the amount of this annual fee may be changed in the future, when is proved to be insufficient for the funding of the in situ measurements and the operation and the expansion of the monitoring network.

- With the above mentioned Law, a fast licensing procedure is foreseen for the upgrade of existing base stations in order to provide extra telecommunication services (4G). The exposure levels of the general public in the vicinity of base stations are assessed, in every case, through the EMF emissions studies submitted by the antenna operators and examined by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) which gives its expert opinion, and through the environmental impact studies that also deal with EMF exposure matters.

- In view of the harmonization of the national legislation with the Directive 2013/35/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from electromagnetic fields (OJEC L 179/1, 26 June 2013), the Ministry of Labour in cooperation with EEAE, are carrying out a measurement campaign and a risk assessment programme, in order to identify the existing situation concerning occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields in various working environments.

Public concern and national responses - New public information activities

- In the framework of the national legislation that demands annual measurements in at least 20% of antenna stations installed in urban areas, the results of all measurements performed in the vicinity of antenna stations, are uploaded to EEAE’s web site: http://eeae.gr/index.php?pvar=php/ni/newmaps_query. Until May 2015, the results of in situ
measurements in the vicinity of more than 6000 base stations are uploaded so that every citizen can be informed.

- For the development of the above mentioned national monitoring network, the bidder of the project (titled also National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields) has installed until May 2015, 250 fixed (broadband) monitoring stations throughout Greece (that are now under pilot operation) along with the data processing centre for the operation of the whole network. The installation sites of the fixed monitoring stations are chosen according to certain legislated criteria described in a technical regulation (published in May 2014), in close cooperation with the municipal authorities. At the end of 2015, the normal operation of the National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields will start, with a total of 500 (fixed and frequency selective) and 13 mobile (vehicle mounted) monitoring stations, as well as a user friendly web portal for the presentation of results and the provision of services to the involved stakeholders and the public.

- In March 2015, EEAE published a new informative brochure for the general public entitled: “Questions and answers for base stations and mobile phones” (http://eeae.gr/docs/files/_info_kiniti_tilefonia.pdf). The WHO fact sheet No 193 - Electromagnetic fields and public health: mobile phones (that was reviewed in October 2014) has been translated in greek and will soon be uploaded in WHO’s website.

- EEAE performed the first post-processing and multi-parametric statistical analysis of in situ measurement data corresponding to almost 5000 audits in the whole country performed during the years 2008-2013. The aim was to derive nationwide conclusions for the characterization of general public’s exposure to radiofrequency fields, based on selected criteria and classification parameters, such as year, environment (urban/suburban/rural), frequency bands of selected common telecommunication services and number of service providers installed at the same site. The measurement results revealed that the vast majority of exposure values were below the limits for the general public as defined by the greek legislation (99% of measured E field values was lower than 14 V/m). This analysis (http://eeae.gr/docs/ni/_total_analysis_2008_2013.pdf) is continuously updated, taking into consideration the latest measurement data (after 2013) and emerging technologies, such as LTE.

- An international call for tenders has been launched in December 2014 by EEAE, inviting all interested accredited laboratories to perform in situ measurements in the vicinity of 1650 base stations installed all over Greece.

Some new publications from greek researchers

