New policies and legislations

- A new law that has been put into force in March 2012 (Law No. 4053, Act. No. 44/A/07.03.2012 entitled: Regulations concerning postal services, electronic communication matters and other provisions), established a new “one stop shop” procedure for the licensing procedure of antenna stations in order to improve and fasten the existing procedure. According to this legislation, the licensing procedure for new base stations can now be completed in 4 months. The exposure levels of the general public in the vicinity of antenna stations will be assessed through the electromagnetic emissions studies submitted in every case by the antenna operators and examined by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), as it was already provisioned in the existing legislation framework.

- According also to a new law (Law No 4070, Act. No. 82/A/10.04.2012 entitled: Regulations concerning electronic communications, transport, public works and other provisions), the safety limits for the exposure of the general public in the vicinity of all kinds of antenna stations are set (again, as in the previous legislation) to 70% of the 1999 EU Council’s Recommendation basic restrictions and reference levels values in all cases and to 60% of them for stations located closer than 300 meters from the perimeter of schools, kindergartens, hospitals or eldercare facilities. It should also be noted that according to this legislation, the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) or other authorized by it laboratories, are monitoring electromagnetic field exposure levels by performing in situ measurements, ex officio or within 20 working days after request of any interested party. These measurements shall be performed every year in the vicinity of at least 20% of all the antenna stations installed in urban areas and their results shall be announced on the web site of GAEC (as it was also provisioned in the previous legislation). Concerning the funding of these activities, the owners of all licensed antenna stations are billed annually the sum of 200€ for each antenna station and everybody asking for measurements in his premises is charged with a fee of 160€. It should also be noted that with the new legislation, installation of mobile phone base stations at the premises of schools, kindergartens, hospitals or eldercare facilities is still forbidden.

- A new ministerial act has been published in March 2012, defining the technical aspects and all relevant details concerning “small” antenna stations with low environmental impact and electromagnetic emissions (e.g. microcells, links) that will be totally excluded from the licensing procedure. According also to a new ministerial act that was published in May 2012, details concerning the environmental aspects related to base stations are defined (including EMF matters), in the framework of a procedure called “standard environmental commitment”. Finally, a new legislation has also been published in December 2011, defining the relevant details for the licensing procedure that “standardized antenna stations” (stations with certain predefined characteristics) shall follow taking into account all aspects concerning the protection of the general public from electromagnetic fields.
Public concern and national responses – New public information activities

- According to the new law that has been put into force in March 2012 (Law No. 4053, Act. No.44/A/07.03.2012 entitled: Regulations concerning postal services, electronic communication matters and other provisions), the National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields is established, 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. The results of this national monitoring network which will be operated and controlled by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), shall be presented through a geographical information system in a very comprehensive and user friendly web portal (providing also other relevant information and services) in order to be assessed by every citizen. The current three monitoring systems in Greece (projects: HERMES www.hermes-program.gr, PEDION24 www.pedion24.gr and FASMA www.fasmaprogram.gr), are expected to be connected to the new national monitoring network. Several ministerial acts and a technical regulation shall be published in the next months, defining all relevant details for the organisation, the deployment, the funding, the operation, the expansion and the maintenance of this vast measuring network.

For the development of the above mentioned network, the project titled National Observatory of Electromagnetic Fields is implemented by Information Society S.A. on behalf of Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks as well as Greek Atomic Energy Commission. Its implementation phase will be funded by the Operational Program “Digital Convergence” of Greece’s / EU “National Strategic Reference Framework” 2007–2013. To this effect, an amount of 4,8 M€ has been already secured, that covers the procurement and deployment of 500 fixed (broadband and frequency selective) and 13 mobile (vehicle mounted) monitoring stations, throughout Greece, as well as the development of the data processing center. The project implementation duration is 22 months and following this time frame, normal operation of the system will commence.

- An international call for tenders has been launched in April 2012 by the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC), inviting all interested accredited laboratories to perform in situ measurements in the vicinity of 1000 antenna stations installed all over Greece, in the framework of the greek legislation that demands annual measurements in at least 20% of all antenna stations installed in urban areas. The results of all measurements performed in the vicinity of antenna stations, are uploaded to GAEC’s web site (http://www.eeae.gr/gr/index.php?pvar=php/ni/ni&map=ni0). Until May 2012, the results of in situ measurements in the vicinity of more than 3100 base stations are uploaded to this webpage.

Some new publications from greek researchers


