1. New policies and legislations regarding EMF exposure

There have been no new activities in this area.

2. Research activities related to EMF health

In 2006 a national research program on Electromagnetic Fields and Health was started, which is managed by the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) (see [http://www.zonmw.nl/en/programmes/all-programmes/electromagnetic-fields-and-health-research](http://www.zonmw.nl/en/programmes/all-programmes/electromagnetic-fields-and-health-research)).

Altogether, 22 research projects and 16 international collaborations and exchanges have been granted. Information on these is only available in Dutch.

3. Public concern and national responses

Public concerns seem to subside. There is some emphasis on several new power line projects. The governments’ recommendations for observing a 0.4 µT limit for long-term exposure of children in new situations has led in some cases to demands for undergrounding new power lines. Also the question arose whether upgrading an existing power line should be considered as a new situation, with the associated recommendation to observe the 0.4 µT limit (which has turned into a de facto standard for new situations).

4. New public information activities

In 2010, the government decided to extend the mandate of the Knowledge Platform Electromagnetic Fields and Health for another 4 years. Collaborating in the Knowledge Platform are the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the Telecom Agency of the ministry of Economic Affairs, the Organization of Municipal Health Services (GGD), KEMA technical consultancy and ZonMw, the organization that hosts the EMF research program. In collaboration with the EMF Committee of the Health Council of the Netherlands, reports on scientific issues are written aiming at informing local authorities, health professionals and the general public. There is a website, with information available in Dutch only ([www.kennisplatform.nl](http://www.kennisplatform.nl)).
After criticism from several groups (the activist group StopUMTS, the EHS Foundation and the Netherlands Institute for Building Biology and Ecology), the report on electrohypersensitivity was discussed with them. A new version will be issued this year, in which the different societal perspectives will be clarified. Several reports were published in response to new scientific publications or other relevant documents.

The Knowledge Platform also organizes a stakeholders round table twice yearly. Early in 2010 two of the three organisations mentioned above announced that they would stop their involvement, because they were very unhappy with the report on EHS. With the extension of the Knowledge Platform’s mandate, some procedures were also modified. Most important, the participants of the round table will be allowed to comment on draft statements before these will be published. The upcoming reformulation of the EHS report has brought the two organizations back in

The Information and Support Point on power lines that was set up by the Ministry of the Environment has been discontinued and all its activities now rest with the Knowledge Platform.

5. Other topics of related interest

The Health Council of the Netherlands has published a report on a long-term animal study from Belgium (Adang). In July 2011 a report will be published on the influence of RF exposure on the development and functioning of children’s brains. The systematic analysis of all papers concerning mobile phones and tumors in the head and neck area will be published by the end of 2011. All reports are available at the Health Council’s website (www.healthcouncil.nl).

Several staff members of the HCN co-authored a paper on the role of scientific advisory bodies in precaution-based risk governance, with EMF as an example.

References
