Denmark

Report on EMF Activities
9th International Advisory Committee Meeting on EMF
June 2004

Research

The Institute is currently involved in the Interphone study, which includes research groups from 15 countries all over the world. The Danish group has published the first report from this study (Christensen 2004). The Danish part of the Interphone study includes all cases of glioma, meningioma and acousticus neuroma as well as randomly sampled population-based controls in a two-year period. Data from Denmark will be presented in three publications and also as a part of the scientific reports from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon France, which is the institution that coordinates the Interphone study. The first Danish dissertation on the subject of EMF and Health will be published June 2004 in Scandinavian Journal of Work Environment & Health (Johansen 2004).

The Danish government has decided to establish a new research program of some 4 million Euros over a two-year period. The program will be announced in May/June 2004 and is expected to cover topics such as: use of cellular telephones and risk of cancer in children, risk of CNS diseases in adult users of cellular telephones, exposure assessment of RF EMF from 3G antennas, cellular and animal studies of possible mechanisms and communication/risk assessment/precautionary principle issues.

Policies and legislation

All regulations of exposure to EMF for the general population and during work are using the ICNIRP Guidelines and it is not the intention of the Danish authorities including the National Board of Health to establish national policies or legislations. The Medical Director of the Danish National Board of Health has convened an expert panel consisting of Danish and international experts in EMF, which is supposed to evaluate the scientific literature covering various aspects of RF EMF during the next two years. The first meeting of this expert panel will take place in August 2004.

Public concern

A massive debate took place from 15 August to 17 December 2003 about possible health effects of the third generation cellular telephone system. It was claimed that these new 3G antennas might provide the society with a new health problem. Many municipalities rejected the establishment of the new system and would not provide the network operators with sites for antennas. In fact, some municipalities withdrew acceptance to certain antenna sites and provided new sites in order to address the public critique. The Danish authorities have established a number of public services aimed at improving information and transparency in the decisions about the establishment of this new 3G system. Currently (May 2004) the area of EMF does not have a high priority in the public debate.
Information

Information activities include initiatives directed by the Danish National Board of Health and the Ministry for Telecommunication, that have established websites giving answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) as well as information brochures, publications and a number of consumer organisations have taken the steps in their activities in the same direction.

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