



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Policy Assistant, Cabinet of Ms Stella Kyriakides  
Commissioner for Health and Food Safety

Brussels, 30/01/2023

Dear Professor Nyberg, dear Professor Hardell,

Thank you for your letter of 12 January 2023 on the seventh appeal of possible health effects of electromagnetic fields sent to Commissioner Kyriakides. Similar letters were also received by Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager and by Commissioner for Environment Virginijus Sinkevičius. I have been asked to thank you for your letters and to reply on their behalf.

While we have taken good note of your concerns, it should be recalled that after decades of discussion on the possibility that long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields might impact health this scientific debate is still ongoing. The significant research effort at EU and national level will continue, and your letter is a clear demonstration of that.

The Commission shares your view that new technologies, such as 5G, must not jeopardise human health or the environment. I can assure you that the Commission's policy is based on the best available scientific data and advice. The potential health risks from the exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields have been extensively researched in the context of the Community Research Framework Programmes and the Scientific Committees supporting the Commission have already produced five scientific opinions on the safety of exposure to electromagnetic fields.

All opinions delivered so far confirm the validity of the reference levels of the 1999 Council Recommendation.

We take note of your position on the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and on the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks - SCHEER (previously SCENHIR). However, we must recall that these bodies are well recognised at national and international level for their scientific excellence and independence from commercial, national, and vested interests.

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The European Commission has a strict policy on assessing and handling competing interests of scientific experts and committee members and requires them to declare interests in relation to personal and organisational involvement related to Committee mandates.

In June 2021, the Commission mandated the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks<sup>1</sup> to perform a new review on the need for a technical revision of the annexes to the Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC. Two new Opinions will be finalised in 2023. The first Opinion (for the frequency range 100 kHz to 300 GHz) was published as a preliminary opinion for public consultation and will be completed in the near future. The second Opinion (on low and intermediate frequencies, i.e. between 1 Hz and 100 kHz) is expected to be published for public consultation by July 2023.

The Commission services have been instructed to send all relevant scientific references you enclosed in this correspondence to the Members of the Committee for review and possible incorporation in the forthcoming opinions.

A possible technical revision of the Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC annexes will be based on the outcomes of these opinions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Kühne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/scheer\\_q\\_023\\_0.pdf](https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/scheer_q_023_0.pdf)