

Complaint SCENIHR opinion on health effects from electromagnetic fields 2015

Annex 1

SCENIHR members' history (bias and conflicts of interest)

INTRODUCTION

Unbalanced and biased expertise on EMF

The European Commission expertise on EMF has since 2004 only included experts with an industry-friendly viewpoint and interpretation of the scientific literature. In the 2015 review, one single SCENIHR committee member was in charge of steering the process and selecting the experts assisting him. Nine of the ten selected experts have been involved with standards committees in the past who have repeatedly underplayed evidence that pointed to health effects - most notably **ICNIRP**, **WHO-EMF Project**, the Swedish Radiation Protection Authority (**SSM**) and the UK's **AGNIR**. An updated opinion from such a group is likely to be consistent with the opinions they've previously expressed.

A context of industry influence

The European Ombudsman published a strong report in January 2015 criticizing the lack of transparency that surrounds the powerful experts groups called upon by the European Commission.¹ *"The Ombudsman calls on the Commission to establish a legally binding framework for all expert groups, including a definition of what balanced representation in different groups should look like. She also recommends measures to reduce potential conflict of interest situations and to publish more information about the work of the groups. The Commission should reply to her proposals by 30 April 2015"*

A recent article about industry influence published in BMJ describes the tobacco companies intensive lobbying through third-party experts. *"The study confirmed previous research showing that the Smart Regulation agenda enables corporate interests to exert undue influence and therefore risks undermining European Union public health policy... The analysis revealed that industry-lobbying tactics were deployed on a "massive" scale. Philip Morris International alone employed over 160 lobbyists, and described third party involvement as "key to success."*² Influencing expert group is one of these efficient third party methods, and the Corporate Europe Observatory has revealed that companies had scientists issuing opinions in expert groups on toxic chemicals they themselves manufactured.³ Is there any reason to believe that the powerful Telecom and electric power industry does not apply the most efficient methods available, and that this has not contributed to the unbalanced composition and position of the SCENIHR expert group(s)?

1. <http://www.aecr.eu/eu-ombudsman-criticises-secrecy-surrounding-powerful-eu-policy-committees/>

2 Massive" tobacco industry third party lobbying for revised European Directive, BMJ 2015; <http://www.bmj.com/company/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/toba-lobb.pdf>

3. http://corporateeurope.org/sites/default/files/attachments/ceo_-_sanco_sc_conflicts_of_interest.pdf

SCENIHR 2015 EMF working group experts

Prof. Samaras Theodoros

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly affirming there are no health risks (specialist in technical aspects). Received funding for development of a library management system based on radiofrequency fields. Advisor to Vodaphone, Panaphone, Athens. Associate member of IEEE⁴ an industry dominated organization which has also sponsored several of his publications. Associate member of IEEE⁵ an industry dominated organization which has also sponsored several of his publications.

Non declared conflicts of interest: Former employee of and present advisor to IT'IS Foundation an organization funded by major telecom companies.⁶ Dr. Samaras is "a long-term friend and colleague of the IT'IS foundation".⁷ Dr. Samaras is "a long-term friend and colleague of the IT'IS foundation".⁸ COST BM 0704 management participant for which IT'IS Foundation was appointed as the Grant Holder.

Prof. Anssi Auvinen

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks Funding from telecom industry for COSMOS study (MMF, Mobile Manufacturers Forum). Previous funding for Interphone study from GSM Association and MMF, and from a Finish research program financed by Nokia, TeliaSonera, Elisa, DNA. Member ICNIRP

Prof. Dr. Heidi Danker- Hopfe

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks

Dr. Kjell Hansson Mild

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks from wifi and mobile masts. (Recognizes a brain tumour risk from mobile phone use – however his opinion in this aspect has not been documented in the SCENIHR report). Member of TeliaSonera advisory expert group for which he is paid (compare Mr Mattsson). Member COST BM0704 for which IT'IS is grant holder.

⁴<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/login.jsp?tp=&arnumber=5940202&url=http%3A%2F%2Fieeexplore.ieee.org%2Fiel5%2F7727%2F5730210%2F05940202.pdf%3Farnumber%3D5940202>

⁵<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/login.jsp?tp=&arnumber=5940202&url=http%3A%2F%2Fieeexplore.ieee.org%2Fiel5%2F7727%2F5730210%2F05940202.pdf%3Farnumber%3D5940202>

⁶ IT'IS Foundation annual report 2012

⁷ <http://www.itis.ethz.ch/news-events/news/awards/award-for-best-scientific-paper-presented-by-a-student-at-bioem2013/>

⁸ <http://www.itis.ethz.ch/news-events/news/awards/award-for-best-scientific-paper-presented-by-a-student-at-bioem2013/>

Prof. Mats- Olof Mattsson

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks Received funding from FGF, (German Telecom industry organisation). Member of Telia Sonera advisory expert group (like Mr Mild). Member of ICNIRP.

Non declared conflicts of interest: Mr Mattsson is employed by AIT Austrian Institute of Technology but failed to declare that the **Federation of Austrian Industries** owns 49.54% of AIT.⁹ (Mr Mattsson only declared **AIT** ownership by Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology). AIT is a company that provides research and technological development to realize basic innovations for the next generation of infrastructure related technologies in the fields of Health & Environment, **Energy, Mobility** and Safety & Security. Mr Mattson also declared that he does not receive compensation from TeliaSonera for participating in its advisory group, a statement that seems unlikely (TeliaSonera is the largest telecom operator in Sweden and Finland)

Dr. Hannu Norppa

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks

Dr. James Rubin

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly affirming psychological causes of Electrohypersensitivity and no health effects. Research funding from MTHR UK, a research program partly funded by the telecommunication industry (Mobile Manufacturers Forum, MMF).

Dr. Maria Rosaria Scarfi

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks Funding from industry (Telecom Italia and CTIA -wireless industry). Member of Cost BM0704 for which IT'IS is grant holder. Member of Italian Electrotechnical Committee on EMF (an Italian standardization organization); consulting expert **ICNIRP**.

Dr. Joachim Schüz

Lack of independence and impartiality Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks Funding from Danish Mobile Phone operators for the start up of the Danish Cohort study on mobile phone use and brain tumours, referred to in the SCENIHR report as evidence against risks. COST BM0704 Management Committee member, for which IT'IS is a grant holder. Participated in Interphone that received half of its funding from GSM Association and Mobile Manufactures Forum, MMF. Currently participating in the Cosmos study¹⁰, which is also funded by telecom industry. Previous funding from EPRI, an American organization funded by the electric industry.

⁹ <http://www.ait.ac.at/about-us/?L=1>

¹⁰ <http://www.thecosmosproject.org/partners.php>

Dr. Zenon Sienkiewicz

Lack of independence and impartiality Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks
Member of management and funding from British partly industry funded research program (MTHR). Holds shares in British Telecom. ICNIRP member. Advisor Japan EMF Information Center **emanating from** Japan Electrical Safety & Environment Technology Laboratories **and the** Japan Electric Association):

Dr. Olga Zeni

Lack of independence and impartiality: Repeatedly concluded there are no health risks
Previous funding from Telecom Italia and CTIA, Italy (wireless industry)

Norbert Leitgeb

Lack of independence and impartiality: For over a decade declared his opposition to potential health effects from mobile phone radiation. He claimed in 2003 that studies on health effects from base stations was a waste of time and money¹¹ and that there was “a greater need to reassure the public”.¹² ICNIRP member.

Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation, Sweden
Priartem, France

¹¹ <http://microwavenews.com/news/backissues/m-j03issue.pdf>

¹² <http://microwavenews.com/news/backissues/n-d02issue.pdf>