

COST 281 Inaugural Meeting

As already mentioned, the European Union has decided to continue the actions COST 244 and COST 244bis for 5 further years in a third action named COST action 281 'Potential Health Effects from Emerging Wireless Communication Systems'. In February 2001, a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) was drawn up and distributed to the individual countries for signature. In June 2001, experts from Medicine, Biology and Technology were invited to participate. The MoU is available electronically at FGF headquarters.

The initial conference, originally planned for June 26, 2001, instead will take place on September 26, 2001 in Brussels. Registrations are to be sent to Lisa Byrne (e-mail: Lisa.Byrne@cec.eu.int); please send a copy to Ulf Bergqvist (e-mail: ulber@ikp.liu.se) and Gerd Friedrich (e-mail: friedrich@fgf.de).

Internet questionnaire concerning literature database

The knowledge-based literature database on the effects of electromagnetic fields on the organism and on implants (WBLDB) of the Research Center for Bioelectromagnetic Interaction in near future is planned to be an information source not only for specialists, but also for other users.

To make the detailed information of the database in future understandable also to other interested groups the WBLDB must be transformed into a universal compe-

tent information system presenting both comprehensive information for experts and data for interested non-scientists.

To detect information needs and actual knowledge of different target groups at present there is an internet questionnaire at the web address <http://wbldb.femu.rwth-aachen.de> (click on survey). To answer to the multiple choice questions will take max. 5 minutes.

The higher the number of participants will be, the better we can consider wishes and interests of the concerning groups in developing the information system. The aim is to offer scientifically reliable knowledge to non-scientists for promoting a future more objective public discussion.

Regulations in the area of non-ionising radiation

The Association for Promotion of Occupational Safety in Europe (Verein zur Förderung der Arbeitssicherheit in Europa e.V) has published the KAN report no. 9 'Regulations in the area of non-ionising radiation' (KAN = Kommission Arbeitsschutz und Normung - Commission for Occupational Safety and Regulations) supported by the German government. The study of Dr. Siegfried Eggert and Dr. Harald Siekmann deals with the topics 'Electrical and electromagnetic fields (0-300 GHz)' and 'Optical radiation'. Its objective is to present a survey of existing regulations and laws and to point to further regulatory requirements.

A first report on this topic range was published already in 1996. The revised report concerns a number of new regulatory

projects; existing regulations have been modified; an important mandate was published by the European Commission. To a huge part, the KAN report has contributed to the fact that known regulatory requirements are taken seriously and that certain regulations are revised in view of occupational safety.

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