

**Welcoming address to the FGF-workshop „Open Questions in the Research on Biological & Health Effects of Low-Intensity RF-EMF”  
Stuttgart, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>**

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

on behalf of the State Ministry for the Environment Baden-Wuerttemberg I'm pleased to welcome you to this workshop dealing with open questions in the research on biological and health effects of low-intensity radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF). Meanwhile it is a good tradition in our cooperation between the Ministry for the Environment and the Research Association for Radio Applications (FGF), that once a year an international workshop takes place in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Thus I'm very glad that we are able to support this workshop once again here in Stuttgart.

In June 2008, the German Mobile Telecommunication Research Programme (DMF), initiated by the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BFS) was accomplished. The programme comprised research projects on the topic of "Mobile Telecommunication" including the fields of "Biology", "Dosimetry", "Epidemiology" and "Risk Communication". As you know, the objective was to find scientifically demonstrable fundamental biological effects and mechanisms and to assess their relevance for people's health on the basis of international research results. The programme also aimed at finding potential causes of electrosensitivity. With this programme, we obtained results which are of importance to the entire field of telecommunications and which should make it possible to draw conclusions about future developments. In summary, these studies conclude, that there is no need to lower valid exposition limits and there is no scientific proof of body responses or health dangers for the range of radio frequency electromagnetic fields.

Nevertheless public debate on radio applications and the potential effects on humans continues and these topics are still controversial discussed. Parts of our population are concerned that electromagnetic fields possibly might affect human health. Of course our ministry, which is responsible for these matters, takes citizens concerns very seriously, and there is no question that health protection has to be guaranteed. However, it is solid scientific knowledge that must be the basis for the assessment of an evaluation of possible dangers and risks. The Ministry for the Environment therefore leans on further assessments and recommendations given by internationally acknowledged specialists.

Despite of the clear results of the German Mobile Telecommunication Research Programme, the need for further research is evident. The statements of the scientific bodies involved in the programme raise the demand to close two existing gaps of knowledge by further research: potential health impacts to children and potential "long-term" impacts after using cell phones or other mobile communication emitters for more than 10 years. Following these recommendations the Ministry for the Environment will financially support further projects such as this workshop in order to complete our knowledge of low-intensity radiofrequency electromagnetic fields

Moreover, we will initiate further own investigations in the area of electromagnetic fields as we did in the past. So for example, some of you which took part in the workshop in the year 2003 at Schloss Hersberg, Immenstaad, know that we made extensive measurements of radio waves in the year of 2002 and 2003. The study gave us a lot of information about the size of electromagnetic field emissions we are exposed to in our everyday life. In 2009 and 2010 we plan to repeat these investigations, using the same measuring points. With a distance of 6

years we will gain a close look, how the intensity of electromagnetic fields has been changing. Again we will present our results in the internet in 2010. I´m sure, these results might be of interest for you. We will also support a further workshop of the Research Association for Radio Applications (FGF) in Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2009, if there is an organizational and financial opportunity. This might give us the possibility to inform you about first results of our new measurements of radio waves.

But back to the current workshop now

The following three days will give you a possibility to discuss the need of further scientific investigations concerning risks of children, the necessity of long-term-studies regarding the situation of humans, RF-effects in vitro-experiments and microthermal effects. We are very interested to observe your discussions and I´m personally keen on your results as a basis for further decisions how to support scientific projects in future.

Therefore I wish you fruitful discussions and useful results. Additionally I wish you to enjoy your time in Stuttgart. Perhaps you will be able to visit some of the attractions of Stuttgart too, which is called “capital of modern architecture” and at the same time “the city of vineyards”. I can assure you, some hours in Stuttgart are a profitable investment.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

Martin Kneisel