

Welcoming address to the FGF-Workshop

“Radiofrequency Fields and Health - Conclusions after 17 years work of the FGF; Special Topic: Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields and Brain Physiology – What is the Connection? ”

Stuttgart, November 23rd – 25th 2009

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

on behalf of the State Ministry of Environment Baden-Wuerttemberg I´m pleased to welcome you to this workshop. It is has been a good cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Research Association for Radio Applications (FGF), that meanwhile the 8th international workshop takes place in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Therefore I am very glad that once again we are able to support this workshop here in Stuttgart.

The public debate on radio applications and the potential effects on human health continues and is still controversial. It is no question that health protection has to be guaranteed. However, it is solid scientific knowledge that must be the basis for the assessment and evaluation of possible dangers and risks. The Ministry of Environment therefore leans on assessments and recommendations given by internationally acknowledged specialists. In summary, they conclude, that there is no need to lower valid exposition limits and there is no scientific prove of body responses or health dangers for the range of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

Nevertheless open questions in the research on biological and health effects of low-intensity radiofrequency electromagnetic fields have to be addressed by further scientific studies. This workshop is dedicated to the question whether electromagnetic fields used for example for mobile communication can have effects on brain functions influencing the EEG, sleep patterns, or cognitive tasks. This research area has found quite consistent positive results. Although these results are rather small biological effects and do not seem to imply any health risk, research in this area made progress and brought out a lot of significant new results. Therefore this workshop brings together representatives of the working groups which recently have worked on these topics. And as the workshops before that were organized by

FGF this workshop aims to provide a consensus among the scientists regarding the scientific state of the art and recommendations on follow-up experiments. This is an important and valuable characteristic of the workshops organized by FGF.

After 17 years the Research Association for Radio Applications will be closed end of the year. So this workshop will be used as well as an opportunity to summarize. And it is typical for the FGF to focus not only on the work of FGF but to widen the view and to summarize also the work of the whole scientific community in the field of biological and health effects of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields.

In the last 17 years the FGF has developed to an important institution and a reliable partner in the scientific community. FGF watched actively and closely the development in the scientific field on biological and health effects of low-intensity radiofrequency electromagnetic fields. Always FGF focussed on an objective scientific-based discussion. It was important for FGF and especially for Gerd Friedrich to promote communication and bring together scientists of various fields. And FGF took an active part in bringing forward the quality assessment of scientific studies. Scientific studies of biological effects of low-intensity radiofrequency electromagnetic fields must have high quality standards otherwise possible rather small biological effects cannot be detected safely.

Thanks to the FGF for organizing this workshop. Thanks to Gerd Friedrich and his team of the FGF for their valuable work they have done over the last 17 years.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you all fruitful discussions and useful results. Additionally I wish you to enjoy your time in Stuttgart.
Thank you.

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