

Welcoming address to the FGF-workshop Stuttgart 05.11-07.11.2007:

"Sleep disorders, EEG-changes, altered cognitive functions – is there a connection with the exposure to mobile communication RF fields?"

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

welcome to the workshop Sleep disorders EEG-changes, altered cognitive functions – is there a connection with the exposure to mobile communication RF-fields? Meanwhile it's a good tradition in our cooperation with the FGF, that once a year an international workshop is held in Baden-Württemberg. And I am very glad, that we can support this workshop once again here in Stuttgart.

Public debate on radio applications and the potential effects on humans are still controversial discussed. Parts of the general population are concerned that electromagnetic fields possibly might affect human well being. Of course the Ministry of Environment, which is responsible for these matters, takes citizens concerns very seriously, and there is no question that health protection must 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 specialist bodies, so for example the German radiation protection commission. In summary these bodies concludes, 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 radio frequency electromagnetic fields.

But, due to evidence for potential effects found in single research projects and studies, the need for further research is seen. The statements of all these scientific bodies raise

the demand to close existing gaps of knowledge by further research. Following these recommendations the Ministry of Environments financially supports single projects such as this workshop in order to make within the field of research a contribution.

Moreover, we initiate own investigations in the area of electromagnetic fields. So for example, some of you which took part in the workshop in the year of 2003 at Schloss Hersberg, Immenstaad, know that we made extensive determination of radio waves in the year of 2002 until 2003. The study gave us information about the size of electromagnetic field emissions we are exposed to in everyday life. So let me have a look into the future what we are doing next year. In 2008 we will continue our determination of radio waves in Baden-Württemberg. Many new technologies and many more mobile radio stations have been installed. With the distance of five years to our last investigation we will have a look how the size of electromagnetic fields has been changing. Again we will present the results in the end of the next year in the internet and perhaps for the one or the other of you, the results might be of interest. If we have the opportunity we will support again next year another workshop by the FGF here in Baden-Württemberg and there might be the chance to present our new results of the project.

But back to the workshop.

One topic of the next days is sleep disorders in the context of RF fields.

We spend around one third of our life seemingly doing nothing – we are sleeping. Our body, however, is not inactive. After eight hours of sleep next morning we wake up feeling refreshed. Sleep recharges our muscles, the brain and the whole body. So we know how important sleep, especially healthy sleep, is for humans. This is a very important topic amongst the other topics that you are discussing here.

This workshop taking place in Stuttgart shall contribute to resolving the question whether there is a connection with exposure to mobile communication RF-Fields in case of sleep disorders, EEG-changes or altered cognitive functions.

I wish you fruitful discussions and clear results. Also, I wish that you will enjoy your time here in Stuttgart, and that you will be able to get to know some of the attractions here of Stuttgart too.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.