

In spite of opposition from the phone companies, Liechtenstein confirms its intention to adopt the BioInitiative standard of 0,6 V/m.

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In May 2008 the Liechtenstein Parliament adopted a law on [the protection of the environment](#) which covered the issues of waste management, noise protection, air pollution, use of fertilisers, GM crops, and the reduction of artificial electromagnetic HF microwave radiation throughout the country by adopting a limit of radiation from relay antennas of 0.6 V/m instead of the present 6.0 V/m (the limit in Switzerland).

Until this comes into force the mobile phone companies are asked to produce an annual report on the progress accomplished towards reaching this goal in 2013. The government is also to report progress to Parliament every year.

The first of these reports concerning the future of mobile phone communication in Liechtenstein was recently debated by Parliament on 1 and 2 June 2009.



Full session of the Liechtenstein parliament

In spite of clear warnings from the 4 mobile phone companies (Mobilkom Liechtenstein, Orange Liechtenstein, Swisscom and Allcommunications), summed up by Christian Neuhaus, the spokesman for Swisscom: "In these conditions, it will no longer be possible to operate a mobile phone network," Parliament has confirmed that it will not back down on its resolution to adopt the threshold of 0.6 V/m between now and 2013. It is firmly convinced that this is technically feasible.



Christian Neuhaus, spokesman for Swisscom

The phone companies have declared openly that this limit cannot be respected, that it would make it impossible to run the network satisfactorily in terms of costs, and would prevent further technological development. They even imply that they might pull out of the country altogether or at least abandon their programme of investment.

These arguments were debated but were dismissed by Parliament, which is clearly determined to reach an outcome that would ensure a high quality mobile communication system in Liechtenstein with a radiation level as low as possible for the sake of public health, while maintaining its financial viability.

Parliament also concluded that there is no need to carry out further studies on the health hazards of phone masts. In fact members requested that the government undertake a series of tests with relay antenna emissions limited to 0.6 V/m.

It is clear that the threats from the phone companies of withdrawal from Liechtenstein have had the opposite effect, since members also asked the government to explore and to evaluate alternative solutions such as having a mobile phone infrastructure belonging to the state, which could grant concessions to private networks.



Dr Pepo Frick, Liechtenstein MP

The government is to provide answers to these requests from Parliament during the parliamentary session of October 2009. Only then does Parliament consider that it can pursue the discussion in a worthwhile way in order to make a final decision on the future of mobile phone communication in the country.

A reminder: [the BioInitiative limit for artificial electromagnetic HF microwave radiation of 0.6 V/m](#), which represents a radiation intensity of $0.1 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$, is one-tenth of the limit of 6V/m ($10 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$) currently in force in Switzerland, but in terms of intensity it is 100 times less.

Let's not forget that the French government still relies on the ICNIRP guidelines, with a limit of 61 V/m which is the equivalent in intensity of $1000 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ - in other words a radiation level no less than 10,000 times higher than that recommended for safety.