

# Recommendations for the New Government of Baden-Württemberg in Germany regarding a Sustainable Wireless Technologies Policy

The state government is guided by the resolution of the European Parliament on "**Health Concerns Associated with Electromagnetic Fields**" (2008/2211(INI) from April 2, 2009.

Wireless communication technologies have revolutionized our society. Associated risks are hotly debated. The European Parliament, the European Environment Agency, the Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND), insurance companies, associations, and many citizen groups classify them as risk technologies that require a precautionary policy. There is one indisputable fact: long-term effects and the impact on pregnant women, fetuses, and children have not been sufficiently studied to date. A precautionary policy should aim at minimizing radiation exposures, informing the public, especially children and adolescents, about potential risks, and giving municipalities the planning authority over the siting of cell phone base stations.

The wireless technologies policy of the state government adopts the following principles:

## 1. Reducing Radiation Exposures

- 1.1. Wired alternatives will be implemented and promoted by the state government wherever possible. For example, Wi-Fi networks at public institutions and wireless Internet access in cities and rural areas shall be avoided. The state government calls on all municipalities to deploy sustainable fiber-optic technology instead of LTE (Long Term Evolution, 4G). Existing incentive programs will be expanded.
- 1.2. The state government will initiate and promote pilot projects to test new wireless communication technologies that provide coverage but also reduce radiation exposure.

## 2. Test First—Deploy Second

- 2.1. A moratorium is placed on the introduction of the TETRA technology in order to review its technical feasibility, costs to the state and municipalities, and health compatibility issues. To date, the results of pending studies are unknown.
- 2.2. A moratorium is placed on the implementation of LTE because this new technology will contribute to a massive increase in radiation exposures and the health impact is not yet clear<sup>1</sup>. As an alternative, fiber-optic technologies are implemented (see 1.1.).
- 2.3. The data security of new wireless communication services such as traffic control and surveillance of cell phone applications will have to be examined prior to their implementation.

## 3. Educating Children and Adolescents

- 3.1. The use of cell phones and smartphones has social, communication, and health consequences, which need to be discussed in educational institutions. Universities of education, e.g. PH-Heidelberg, are commissioned to develop strategies and concepts on this issue.
- 3.2. Study results on sperm damage and embryo toxicity caused by cell phone radiation are alarming. The state government will plan an awareness campaign on this issue.

<sup>1</sup> In February, the Israeli Ministry of Health and Environment put a halt on the deployment of LTE for now due to the lack of research. Source: Jerusalem Post, 28/02/2011, "Radiation effect must be checked before 4G system is okayed"

#### **4. Local Government Rights**

- 4.1. The planning and zoning regulations will be changed to grant local governments planning and zoning authority. The public is included in this process.
- 4.2. Local governments will receive advice on how to implement a precautionary strategy for wireless networks, including legal implications. Guidelines must be developed.

#### **5. Registration Office for Electrosensitives**

- 5.1. In cooperation with the state medical association, the public health departments will establish registration offices for electrosensitive individuals and a central registry will be developed to gather all information.
- 5.2. The state government will consider establishing a "month of electromagnetic hypersensitivity" to raise awareness about this new environmental illness—as has been done in several states in the USA.
- 5.3. The state government will develop a strategy on how to establish wireless-free zones, municipalities, and regions so as to offer electrosensitive people a living space and areas where they can be safe and recuperate.

#### **6. Public Outreach**

- 6.1. The state government will review the public outreach programs of its ministries on EMF (electromagnetic fields) in general and in particular on cell phone radiation.
- 6.2. The distribution of the brochures on cell phones and EMF by the Ministry of Health and Environment is discontinued; new information brochures will be developed with the participation of representatives from citizen groups.
- 6.3. The state government will organize a symposium on health issues and cell phones. Citizen groups will be asked to participate in the selection of presenters and content of this symposium.

#### **7. Impact on the Federal Government**

- 7.1 The state government will introduce effective safety guidelines and precautionary recommendations in the current revision of the 26. BfSchV. (*Federal Immission Control Act*).

#### **Enclosures:**

BUND Position No. 46 „Zukunftsfähige Funktechnologien (Sustainable Wireless Technologies)"  
Resolution of the EU Parliament 2008/2211(INI)

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**These recommendations to the state government were adopted and supported by the BUND Stuttgart general meeting on April 4, 2011.**