

Deutsche Bundesregierung warnt vor WLAN-Nutzung

Industrie kritisiert Vorstoß

German Government warns against WLAN-use

Industry criticises the move

Berlin (pte/01.08.2007/13:05) – Die deutsche Bundesregierung empfiehlt, den Einsatz von WLAN am Arbeitsplatz oder zuhause wenn möglich zu vermeiden. Um die persönliche Strahlenbelastung zu reduzieren, sei es besser, bei herkömmlichen, kabelgebundenen Netzwerken zu bleiben.

Berlin (pte/01.08.2007/13:05) – The German Government [Bundesregierung] recommends that the use of WLAN in the workplace or at home should be avoided, if possible. In order to reduce personal radiation exposure, it is better to remain with conventional cable-connected networks.

Grundlage für die Beurteilung möglicher Gesundheitsschäden durch drahtlose Netzwerke ist die spezifische Absorptionsrate (SAR). Sie beschreibt, welche Menge an Strahlungsleistung vom menschlichen Körper aufgenommen wird. Der Grenzwert beträgt 0,08 Watt pro Kilogramm (W/kg) für den ganzen Körper und 2,00 W/kg für Teile des Körpers. Mit Werten von 0,1 W/kg bei minimalem Abstand zu einzelnen Körperteilen liegt WLAN weit unter dem Grenzwert. "Man darf nicht vergessen, dass es sich um eine relativ neue Technologie handelt, die noch weiter erforscht werden muss", zeigt sich Emrich skeptisch.

The basis for the judgement of possible health damage through wireless networks is the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR). It defines the quantity of radiation power that is absorbed by the human body. The limit is 0.08 Watt per kilogram (W/kg) for the whole body and 2.00 W/kg for parts of the body. With values of 0.1 W/kg at a minimum distance from individual parts of the body WLAN lies far below the limit. "One should not forget that it concerns a relatively new technology, that must be further researched ", declares Emrich sceptically.

Während die Strahlung durch öffentliche Netzwerke gering sei, könnten Funknetzwerke im beruflichen und privaten Umfeld zur Belastung werden, wenn nicht ein bestimmter Mindestabstand zu den Funkstationen eingehalten würde, teilt die Bundesregierung mit. In Deutschland gibt es rund 9.000 öffentliche WLAN-Hot-Spots. Die Strahlungsbelastung bliebe jedoch immer unter dem EU-Grenzwert von 10 Watt pro Quadratmeter.

Whilst the radiation from public networks was low, telecommunications networks in the occupational and private environment could lead to [stress](#), if a minimum distance from the [transmitters](#) [Funkstationen] is not maintained, stated the Government. In Germany, there are about 9,000 public WLAN-Hot-Spots. However, the radiation exposure always remains below the EU-Limit of 10 Watts per square metre.

"Faktum ist, dass die Strahlenbelastung durch Mobilfunk um das Zehn- bis Fünfzigfache höher ist", kritisiert Carsten Kunert, Sprecher des Netzwerkherstellers Netgear, im Gespräch mit presstext. Ihm sei unklar, warum man sich gerade auf Funknetzwerke eingeschossen habe. "Womöglich stehen Lobbyisten der UMTS-Branche hinter dieser Empfehlung", vermutet Kunert. "Oder es liegt an einer grundsätzlichen Neigung, alles was man nicht kennt, zu verdammen." Die Entscheidung zwischen Kabel- und Funknetzwerken sollten Nutzer nach technischen Kriterien fällen - wenn beide Möglichkeiten gegeben seien, würden Nutzer ohnehin zur schnelleren Kabellösung tendieren, meint Kunert abschließend. (Ende)

"The fact is that the radiation exposure from mobile telecommunications is ten- to fifty fold higher ", criticised Carsten Kunert, speaker from the network manufacturer Netgear, in the discussion with presstext. It was unclear to him why they had just zeroed-in on the telecommunications network. "Possibly, lobbyists of the UMTS-branches are behind this recommendation ", suspects Kunert. "Or, it is due a basic tendency to condemn everything that one does not know." The user should make the decision on whether to use cable or wireless networks based on technical criteria – if both alternatives are given users would anyway tend to use to the quicker *wired* solution, *concludes Kunert*.

The above warning was translated by Dr. Christine Aschermann

The skeptical response to the above from the German Federal Office for Radiation Protection was:

"Alle Beweise deuten daraufhin, dass Strahlung innerhalb der Grenzwerte nicht gesundheitsschädlich ist. Nichtsdestotrotz könnten Wirkungsmechanismen bestehen", erklärt Florian Emrich vom Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz gegenüber presstext.

"All the evidence indicates that radiation levels that are below the permitted limit are not harmful to health. Nevertheless, mechanisms of action could exist", explained Florian Emrich from the *Federal Office for Radiation Protection*(Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz) to presstext.

The Freiburger Appeal, initially started by 50 German doctors in response to the lack of strong protection from the German Government, and which now has the support of 1,200 doctors and 40,000 signatories, follows.

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FREIBURGER APPEAL

Out of great concern for the health of our fellow human beings do we - as established physicians of all fields, especially that of environmental medicine - turn to the medical establishment and those in public health and political domains, as well as to the public.

We have observed, in recent years, a dramatic rise in severe and chronic diseases among our patients, especially:

- Learning, concentration, and behavioural disorders (e.g. attention deficit disorder, ADD)
- Extreme fluctuations in blood pressure, ever harder to influence with medications
- Heart rhythm disorders
- Heart attacks and strokes among an increasingly younger population
- Brain-degenerative diseases (e.g. Alzheimer's) and epilepsy
- Cancerous afflictions: leukemia, brain tumors

Moreover, we have observed an ever-increasing occurrence of various disorders, often misdiagnosed in patients as psychosomatic:

- Headaches, migraines
- Chronic exhaustion
- Inner agitation
- Sleeplessness, daytime sleepiness
- Tinnitus
- Susceptibility to infection
- Nervous and connective tissue pains, for which the usual causes do not explain even the most conspicuous symptoms

Since the living environment and lifestyles of our patients are familiar to us, we can see – especially after carefully-directed inquiry – a clear temporal and spatial correla-



tion between the appearance of disease and exposure to pulsed high-frequency microwave radiation (HFMR), such as:

- Installation of a mobile telephone sending station in the near vicinity
- Intensive mobile telephone use
- Installation of a digital cordless (DECT) telephone at home or in the neighbourhood

We can no longer believe this to be purely coincidence, for:

- Too often do we observe a marked concentration of particular illnesses in correspondingly HFMR-polluted areas or apartments;
- Too often does a long-term disease or affliction improve or disappear in a relatively short time after reduction or elimination of HFMR pollution in the patient's environment;
- Too often are our observations confirmed by on-site measurements of HFMR of unusual intensity.

On the basis of our daily experiences, we hold the current mobile communications technology (introduced in 1992 and since then globally extensive) and cordless digital telephones (DECT standard) to be among the fundamental triggers for this fatal development. One can no longer evade these pulsed microwaves. They heighten the risk of already-present chemical/physical influences, stress the body's immune system, and can bring the body's still-functioning regulatory mechanisms to a halt. Pregnant women, children, adolescents, elderly and sick people are especially at risk.

Our therapeutic efforts to restore health are becoming increasingly less effective: the unimpeded and continuous penetration of radiation into living and working areas – particularly bedrooms, an essential place for relaxation, regeneration and healing – causes uninterrupted stress and prevents the patient's thorough recovery.

In the face of this disquieting development, we feel obliged to inform the public of our observations – especially since hearing that the German courts regard any danger from mobile telephone radiation as “purely hypothetical” (see the decisions of the constitutional court in Karlsruhe and the administrative court in Mannheim, Spring 2002).

What we experience in the daily reality of our medical practice is anything but hypothetical! We see the rising number of chronically sick patients also as the result of an irresponsible “safety limits” policy, which fails to take the protection of the public from the short- and long-term effects of mobile telephone radiation as its criterium for action. Instead, it submits to the dictates of a technology already long recognized as dangerous. For us, this is the beginning of a very serious development through which the health of many people is being threatened.

We will no longer be made to wait upon further unreal research results - which in our experience are often influenced by the communications industry – while evidential studies go on being ignored. We find it to be of urgent necessity that we act now!



Above all, we are, as doctors, the advocates for our patients. In the interest of all those concerned, whose basic right to life and freedom from bodily harm is currently being put at stake, we appeal to those in the spheres of politics and public health. Please support the following demands with your influence:

- New health-friendly communications techniques, given independent risk assessments before their introduction

and, as immediate measures and transitional steps:

- Stricter safety limits and major reduction of sender output and HFMR pollution on a justifiable scale, especially in areas of sleep and convalescence
 - A say on the part of local citizens and communities regarding the placing of antennae (which in a democracy should be taken for granted)
 - Education of the public, especially of mobile telephone users, regarding the health risks of electromagnetic fields
 - Ban on mobile telephone use by small children, and restrictions on use by adolescents
 - Ban on mobile telephone use and digital cordless (DECT) telephones in preschools, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, events halls, public buildings and vehicles (as with the ban on smoking)
 - Mobile telephone and HFMR-free zones (as with auto-free areas)
 - Revision of DECT standards for cordless telephones with the goal of reducing radiation intensity and limiting actual use time, as well as avoiding the biologically critical HFMR pulsation
 - Industry-independent research, finally with the inclusion of amply available critical research results and our medical observations
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The So-far Undersigned

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