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**Avoid dangers of mobile telephony:
BUND presents concept for protection against electromagnetic radiation.**

Berlin: BUND, Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V. (Friends of the Earth Germany), today proposed a prevention and protection concept to ensure minimum protection against electromagnetic fields artificially generated by applications like mobile telephony, WLAN and other wireless transmission technologies. According to BUND, electronic smog is a threat not only to human health, but also is responsible for harming animal and plant life.

Hubert Weiger, Chairman of BUND: "It is incomprehensible why German Federal Minister of the Environment Sigmar Gabriel just recently issued an all-clear saying that the radiation produced by mobile telephony at least does not harm adult mobile phone users. The EU Parliament considers the emission limits inadequate. Many studies show that mobile telephony radiation not only harms humans but plants and animals too. In addition, much too little is known about the long-term effects of such radiation. But instead of filling this knowledge gap, the Federal Network Agency approves more and more radio networks for new applications."

Health damage documented in humans is said to include sleep disorders and states of exhaustion. Scientific studies showed disturbances of the autonomic nervous system and an increased permeability of the blood-brain barrier allowing pollutants to enter the brain directly. The radiation also is suspected of promoting or causing brain tumors. Insects and animals like bees, carrier pigeons or bats partly lose their orientation due to artificial electromagnetic fields.

Wilfried Kühling, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of BUND: "Living organisms depend on natural bioelectric control processes. Technical radio signals constantly interfere with this natural control in increasingly more complex ways, giving rise to wrong and biologically undesirable reactions." He said that in inhabited areas, in particular, the artificial fields already are more than ten thousand to a million times higher than the natural radiation in many cases, and thus within the range of biologically detectable effects. Kühling: "Since this radiation goes through all solid bodies, the result is more or less a forced irradiation which no one can escape."

BUND also made proposals for a sustainable communication technology which would save human health and the environment from harm. The current maximum limit for electromagnetic radiation must be reduced ten million times to 1 microwatt per square meter in order to ensure the prevention prescribed by law. Mobile coverage must be enabled by low-radiation applications in future. Transmitting stations should be built only at sites where the resultant load on residents is minimal, instead of choosing locations based on lowest lease costs. In addition, overlapping radio networks should be deconstructed and network-bound techniques expanded. The transition to optical transmission techniques suggests itself as a more health-compatible alternative.

Bernd Müller, BUND mobile telephony expert: "So as to preclude harm to the environment and health in future, the massive expansion of radio networks must cease. Instead, new communication technologies must be found. This includes the dismantling of many transmitters because of the unnecessary duplication of coverage which already exists."

BUND calls on the Minister of the Environment to enter into an open-ended discourse with all players and affected parties concerning the further treatment of radio technologies.

In Germany there are around 260,000 mobile radio transmitters, about two million smaller transmitters and some 50 million domestic transmitters – WLAN, cordless telephones, data and video transmission systems – along with some 100 million mobile phones. Many devices exceed the limits set by the regulation governing electromagnetic fields; they include DECT phones sold as low-radiation units. Mobile phones exceed the limits by as much as ten times.

You will find the mobile telephone position paper of BUND, "For radio technologies with a future", in the internet at

http://www.bund.net/fileadmin/bundnet/publikationen/chemie/20081028_chemie_funktechnologien_position.pdf

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