

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION ON ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

The Myth:

Without 100% proof that electromagnetic fields (EMFs) cause brain cancer, other cancers, genetic damage, miscarriages, birth defects, and many other health problems, there is no need to inform, warn or protect the public.

The Facts:

● On April 2, 2009, the European Parliament (elected institution of the European Union [EU]) passed a resolution on health concerns associated with EMFs. Following are just a few of the statements within this resolution that indicate how serious the European Parliament takes the threat of power line EMFs to human and environmental health:

– The resolution takes into account and is based on certain Articles of “the European Community (Union) Treaty, seeking to promote a high level of human health, environmental protection and workers’ health and safety protection”.

– “...the fact that the scientific community has reached no definite conclusions (on the degree of EMF effects) has not prevented some national or regional governments, in China, Switzerland, and Russia, as well as in at least nine EU Member States, from setting what are termed ‘preventive’ exposure limits.”

– “...the majority of citizens do not feel that the public authorities inform them adequately on measures to protect them from EMFs.”

– “Calls on the Member States to make available to the public, jointly with the operators in the sector, maps showing exposure to high-voltage power lines...Calls for that information to be displayed on an internet page so that it can easily be consulted by the public, and for it to be disseminated in the media.”

– “Calls on the Council (highest political body of the EU) and Commission

(Executive Branch of the EU)...to encourage the introduction of a single standard designed to ensure that local residents are subjected to as low a degree of (EMF) exposure as possible when high-voltage grids are extended.”



● One of the Articles that the European Parliament resolution is founded on is Article 174 (European Union 2006) which requires that environmental and human health protection be based on the Precautionary Principle. The foundation of this principle is that preventive action be taken to protect the environment and human health before certainty of harm from EMFs is necessarily proven. This is contrary to the approach by electricity transmission companies, industry-based organizations, and Health Canada that require 100% proof of adverse effects of low frequency EMFs before addressing public concerns and exposure standards.

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