

REGISTRATION REQUEST EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE "ATTENTION-5G"

1. Title of the initiative

European Citizens' Initiative "Attention 5G"



2. Objectives of the initiative

With the European Citizens' Initiative "Attention 5G", we would like to draw attention to the fact that the introduction of 5G may lead to incalculable risks and dangers for the environment and health. To prevent irreparable damage, it is therefore necessary to take precautionary measures. We therefore call for an immediate moratorium on 5G until all potential risks have been sufficiently clarified scientifically. This also counts for the application of the precautionary principle in mobile telephony. In addition, it is generally necessary to strengthen the protection of the environment and the population from exposure to electromagnetic radiation through the following measures: Establishing lowradiation protection zones to protect the environment and electrosensitive people; setting stricter limits on electromagnetic exposure; carrying out strategic environmental assessments in the development of 5G; applying "cable priority" in the construction of digital telecommunications; creating sheltered workplaces for particularly affected electrohypersensitive people; enhancing support for research into the risks and dangers of mobile communications technology and affixing health warnings to mobile communications packaging.

3. Relevant regulatory requirements

Art. 11, 19, 114, 191 f., 179 f. AEUV, Art. 3 EUV.

Further guidance on the formal structure of the registration application (paragraphs 4-7, in total 9)

4. The full names, postal addresses, nationalities and dates of birth of the seven members of the group of organizers residing in seven different Member States,

indicating in particular the representative and alternate representative of the group, and their eMail addresses and telephone numbers; where the representative and/or alternate is not among the seven members referred to in the first subparagraph, their full names, postal addresses, nationalities and dates of birth, as well as e-mail addresses and telephone numbers, shall be indicated.

5. Supporting documents relating to the full names, postal addresses, nationalities and dates of birth of the seven members referred to in point 4 and of the representative and alternate, if they are not among the seven members referred to in the first subparagraph;

6. The names of the other members of the organizers;

7. In the case where appropriate, documents proving that a legal entity has been set up under the national law of a Member State

specifically to manage a given initiative and that the member appointed as representative of the group of organizers is authorized to act on behalf of the legal entity; [referred to in Article 5 (7) of Regulation (EU) 2019/788]

8. All sources of support and funding for the initiative until the date of registration

8.1 Eduard Meßmer, 10.000 €

8.2 Dr. Yvonne Holzer-Hoffmann, 1.000 €

8.3 Barbara & Klaus Böhm, 500 €

9. Circumstances

The introduction of the 5G telecommunications technology is highly anticipated. According to the ideas of the European Union, 5G is to be the core element in establishing the European gigabit society by 2025.¹ 5G will make it possible to transmit much larger amounts of data in much less time, enabling the "Internet of Things" to provide connectivity between billions of devices. The European Commission estimates that investments of around 500 billion euros will be required for expansion.² Business and political leaders expect the digital economy to generate millions of new jobs and billions in revenue. It is not clear, however, whether this expenditure will be profitable and whether it will fulfil expectations.³

This has so far almost entirely ignored the fact that the roll-out of 5G technology across Europe is also threatening to have negative effects of unprecedented magnitude on human health and the environment. More and more people in the European Union are becoming aware of this and are increasingly concerned.

The roll-out of 5G in Europe will require the establishment of a network of base stations many times denser than the radio infrastructures currently in use for the well-known 2G, 3G and 4G technologies. In addition, billions of broadcastable devices will be interconnected through the "Internet of Things". To ensure ubiquitous 5G coverage, several tens of thousands of satellites are also to be sent into orbit in the coming years. The consequence of this will be that people, animals and nature will be exposed to artificial electromagnetic radiation everywhere and at all times in the future.

¹ European Commission, Connectivity for a Competitive Digital Single Market - Towards a European Gigabit Society, COM(2016) 587 final.

² European Commission, Digital Single Market: Political agreement on the rules shaping the telecommunication markets in the 5G area.

³ European Parliamentary Research Service, Effects of 5G wireless communication on human health, Briefing February 2020, PE 646.172.

The resulting impacts will be many times higher than is currently the case. It is already known from countless scientific studies in the mobile phone sector that electromagnetic radiation has a multitude of harmful effects on health and the environment.⁴ There is a strong fear that 5G will not only lead to an increase in known effects, but will also give rise to new, previously unknown risks. Of particular concern is the use of a much wider range of frequencies, including millimeter waves, in addition to the microwaves used until now, which will require the construction of up to 800 base stations per km².

In view of the incalculable consequences, there is therefore an urgent need for a moratorium on the introduction of 5G until the risks to health and the environment resulting from 5G have been scientifically clarified. In particular, the **possible effects of the expansion of the satellite network on the natural electrical household of the earth's atmosphere** should be taken into account. In the same way, therefore, the application of the precautionary principle, including the principle of minimization, is called for in the field of mobile telephony.⁵ It would be a very high health and economic price to pay if, as was the case with the introduction of asbestos, leaded petrol or tobacco, we waited until there was solid scientific and clinical evidence to take measures to prevent well known risks.⁶

The introduction of 5G also provides an opportunity to revise the limits set at European level for exposure to harmful environmental effects from electromagnetic radiation.⁷ The European Parliament has also called for such steps in the past.⁸ The regulations currently in force are over twenty years old and appear anachronistic in view of the rapid technological development in the telecommunications sector. In addition, the regulations in question are limited solely to so-called thermal effects, i.e. effects caused by heating of the body. Numerous studies show that many health impairments are also caused by biological or nonthermal effects, which are due to radiation intensity

⁴ See the numerous examples given in the "5G Appeal", www.5gappeal.eu, last accessed on 15 April 2020.

⁵ The minimization requirement means that pollution limits must not be exhausted and that technically possible and economically bearable measures must be taken to avoid or reduce environmental pollution. This aspect of the precautionary principle was applied, for example, in the EU Directive on integrated pollution prevention and control ("IPPC Directive").

⁶ Cf. Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment, Resolution 1815 (2011).

⁷ Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC of 12 July 1999 on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz), OJEU No. L 199, see 30.7.1999, p. 59 ff.

⁸ European Parliament resolution of 2 April 2009 on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields (2008/2211(INI)), OJEU No. C 137, see 27.5.2010, E/38 ff.

below the known limits. The revision should be guided by the strictest regulations in the EU Member States.

In view of the numerous technological developments to be expected in the telecommunications sector, it will be necessary to **review the revised limit values for their suitability at regular intervals** and to inform the European legislator accordingly.

In order to meet environmental and health protection requirements, it is necessary to ensure that the revision of the relevant limit values is based on independent, impartial and pluralistic studies carried out by scientists who are free from conflicts of interest. There is a number of indications that the bodies that have been involved in setting and reviewing the existing limit values cannot meet these requirements, as many members of these bodies have problematic links with relevant commercial enterprises and/or the relevant national and supranational institutions.⁹ There are also concerns that, due to conflicts of interest, numerous studies that prove negative effects are not taken into account.¹⁰

In this context, it is therefore also appropriate to support further research on the impact of mobile technology, including 5G, on environment and health and all other relevant areas (energy, data protection, fundamental rights, etc.) with additional funding. At European level, the "Horizon Europe" research program in particular can be used for this purpose. The European Commission has itself acknowledged that there is a considerable need for research in this respect, while admitting that it has not yet carried out studies on the potential risks of 5G.¹¹ The awarding of subsidies must also respect the principles of independence, impartiality and plurality, and it must be ensured that the beneficiary research institutions are free of conflicts of interest.

⁹ See, for example, the results of Investigate Europe, published in the German Newspaper "Tagesspiegel" of 15 January 2019: <https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/mobilfunk-wie-gesundheitsschaedlich-ist-5gwirklich/23852384.html>, last accessed on 15 April 2020, and in other media: <https://www.investigatееurope.eu/publications/the-5g-mass-experiment/>; due to these conflicts of interest, the Italian Court of Appeal of Turin, probably for the first time in Europe, refrained from relying on corresponding scientific studies in a judgment of 3 December 2019, case no. 904/2019, in the Romeo / INAIL case.

¹⁰ Pall, Martin. 5G: Great risk for EU, U.S. and International Health! Compelling Evidence for Eight Distinct Types of Great Harm Caused by Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Exposures and the Mechanism that Causes Them, <https://www.emfdata.org/en/documentations/detail&id=243>; see also Cherry, ICNIRP Guideline Critique, Februar 1999, <https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10182/4017/icnirp-cherry-criticsen1.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>, each one last accessed on 15 April 2020.

¹¹ See the European Commission's answer to parliamentary question E-005128/2018(ASW).

Due to the increasing exposure to electromagnetic radiation, which tends to become ubiquitous with the widespread expansion of 5G, many people who are particularly sensitive to it have less and less opportunity to withdraw and rest. It is therefore urgently necessary to create so-called "white zones" for those in society who are particularly in need of protection (electro-sensitive or electro-hypersensitive people, the elderly and sick, pregnant women, children, etc.), in which those affected are exposed to little or no electromagnetic radiation. In the same way, it is necessary to establish protection zones for flora and fauna. Many indications suggest that negative environmental changes such as damage to trees and decline in insect populations can also be attributed to increasingly strong electromagnetic fields. The European Union has already adopted similar spatial approaches for the purpose of environmental protection in the FFH Directive and the Birds Directive.¹²

Many millions of people in Europe are affected by electrohypersensitivity. Because of their suffering, they can only participate in occupational and social life under difficult conditions, which means that they are often threatened with exclusion and isolation. They suffer from complaints such as headaches, sleep disorders, lack of concentration, etc. There is cause for concern that the number of people affected will increase even further with the introduction of 5G. Special measures should therefore be taken to protect them. European antidiscrimination policy should recognize as disabled persons those who are most severely affected, and should create workplaces for disabled persons adapted to their specific needs.¹³

The majority of consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, are not aware of the health risks arising from the use of smartphones and mobile phones due to electromagnetic radiation. The International Agency for Research on Cancer IARC and the World Health Organization WHO have already warned in 2011 that the **use of mobile phones** can be carcinogenic.¹⁴ As the European Union has already done, for example, with the Food Information Regulation, it is therefore appropriate to include specific **health warnings on product**

¹² Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJEU No. L 206, see 22.7.1992, p. 7 and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJEU No. L 20, see 26.1.2010, p. 7 ff.

¹³ See also Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, The potential dangers of electromagnetic fields and their effect on the environment, Resolution 1815 (2011).

¹⁴ See https://www.iarc.fr/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/pr208_E.pdf, last accessed on 15 April 2020.

packaging.¹⁵ A Europe-wide approach is necessary in order to prevent possible distortions of competition in the internal market.

Additional protection against the omnipresent and harmful environmental effects of electromagnetic radiation can also be achieved by a so-called "cable priority". This means a Europe-wide obligation to expand the digital telecommunications infrastructure by cable. Only in well-founded exceptional cases should the expansion still be allowed to work with electromagnetic radio waves. Cable-based communication not only serves to protect the environment and health, but is also preferable because it is faster, safer, more reliable and more energy-efficient than wireless infrastructure.¹⁶ As a consequence, hospitals, banks, the military and security authorities will typically continue to use wired connections for their communications.¹⁷

Finally, another important step to prevent environmental damage from electromagnetic radiation is the conducting of strategic environmental assessments for the roll-out of 5G. At European level, the framework for this is defined by the so-called SEA Directive.¹⁸

The purpose of strategic environmental assessment is "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."

Although the roll-out of 5G will undoubtedly be one of the largest and most important infrastructure projects in Europe in the coming years, the existing guidelines do not impose a clear obligation to conduct appropriate strategic environmental assessments. In view of the threat

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004, OJEU No. L 304, see 25.10.2011, p. 29.

¹⁶ See for example <https://whatis5g.info/fiber-optics/>, last accessed on 15 April 2020.

¹⁷ European Parliamentary Research Service, Effects of 5G wireless communication on human health, Briefing February 2020, PE 646.172.

¹⁸ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJEU No. L 197, see 21.7.2001, p. 32.

of significant environmental impacts, it is therefore necessary for the European legislator to state clearly that the roll-out of 5G also falls within the scope of the SEA Directive.

THE DEMANDS IN DETAIL

1. The issuing of an immediate moratorium on the construction and roll-out of 5G in all Member States until potential risks to the environment and human health are fully explored.
2. The application of the precautionary principle, including the principle of minimization, to mobile communications in order to protect against risks to the environment and human health.
3. The definition of more restrictive threshold values for the maximum exposure of the general public to electromagnetic radiation harming the environment.
4. The granting of additional funding by the European Union for research into the risks and dangers of mobile communications technology, with particular attention to the impact of 5G (focusing on health, environment, energy, data protection, fundamental rights, etc.). This funding should be granted exclusively to independent research institutions that are free of conflicts of interest.
5. Improving the protection of electrohypersensitive persons by establishing sheltered workplaces.
6. The establishment of "white zones" free of radiation or with low levels of radiation to protect particularly sensitive population groups (electrosensitive or electrohypersensitive persons, the elderly, sick persons, pregnant women, children, etc.) and the environment.
7. The labelling of product packaging of mobile devices with health warnings, in particular indicating possible cancer risks.
8. The adoption of a "cable priority" in the expansion of digital telecommunications. So-called "wireless solutions" should only be considered in well-founded exceptional cases.
9. The conducting of strategic environmental assessments in the deployment of 5G.