

# KOMPETENZINITIATIVE

zum Schutz von Mensch, Umwelt und Demokratie e.V.

## **Mainz Statement, 4–6 October 2019:**

### **For Advances in Radiation Protection – For New Precautionary Policies**

International Public Symposium

“Biological Effects of Wireless Technology”

Mainz, Electoral Palace, 4–6 October 2019

#### **Cell phones, smartphones, tablets, smart home, smart city, Internet of Things ...**

The digital transformation of our society is expected to continue with the new 5G standard, largely through mobile and wireless communication. As a result, radiation exposure due to mobile and wireless communication technologies, their infrastructure and applications will increase enormously.

Against this background, the International Public Symposium “Biological Effects of Wireless Technology,” Mainz, Electoral Palace, 4–6 October 2019, invites discussion – organized by our *Kompetenzinitiative e.V.* and supported by the *Stiftung für Kinder*, Freiburg, and the *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe-Stiftung*, Basel.

The conference also wishes to promote the dialogue between science and society in the face of social and technological challenges that concern us all – at a global as well as regional and local levels.

#### **About the current 5G debate ...**

In the current 5G debate, we can see powerful trends of fanciful mystification of technology, over-the-top euphoric campaigns and nebulous rhetoric about down-played risks and assured safety. These messages do not do the potential adverse impact of the 5G technology on humans and the environment any justice. Especially massive economic interests and diverse ideologies of usefulness interfere with an adequate perception of risk by decision-makers and representatives from industry and politics.

Therefore, we consider an equally wide-ranging and deep-reaching social debate about the possibilities and limits of the digital transformation – especially the health-related and economic risks of the new wireless standard 5G – a must.

#### **Learn from the independent international risk research ...**

The Mainz Conference 2019 offers opportunities to talk with renowned members of the international risk research community.

Geschäftsstelle: Parallelstraße 26, 66125 Saarbrücken

Vorsitzende: Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Mario Babilon • Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Klaus Buchner • Dr. phil. Peter Ludwig (geschäftsführend) • Prof. Dr. phil. Karl Richter

Erweiterter Vorstand: Barbara Dohmen, Umweltärztin • Dipl.-Ing. Joachim Gertenbach • Dr. med. Monika Krout Dr. med. Joachim Mutter • Klaus Scheidsteger • Dr. rer. nat. Ulrich Warnke

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According to the current body of evidence in innovative risk research, there is now clear evidence of so-called biological effects of wireless communication technologies, which can range from impaired well-being to serious disorders of or damages to the quality of life and health. This increase in wireless radiation exposure takes a heavy toll on risk groups, especially on children, adolescents, and persons with electromagnetic hypersensitivity.

It is high time that the findings of the independent international risk research are made known. Global and national policy- and decision-makers are urged to bring about real change in international and national policies regarding wireless communication technologies.

With our approach, we agree in principle with the evaluations of progressive political and scientific positions from the recent past such as Resolution 1815 by the European Council (2011), the expanded report "Lessons from Early Warnings" by the European Environment Agency (2013) or international appeals by scientists (2015/2017).

## **For advances in radiation protection – for a new precautionary policy**

The most urgent key issues that need to be addressed first are listed below. According to our assessment, they form the basis for a new precautionary policy:

- **Stop the rollout of 5G** until genuine, independent technology risk assessments provide relevant risk analyses regarding health and the environment.
- **Adequate risk awareness**, especially in **politics** and **industry** – supporting and promoting research that is free of industry interests – raising public risk awareness without limits
- **Substantial review of current exposure limits** to issue guidelines that replace the physics-based limits, which cannot protect living organisms, with guidelines that are based on biological and biophysical conditions of life
- **Significant reduction in emissions** with regard to present wireless technologies – research and support of alternative wireless communication technologies, e.g. light technologies – expansion of the powerful fiber-optic network
- **Wi-Fi-free educational institutions, daycare centers and schools** prefer hardwired solutions – up-to-date risk disclosure in the context of children/adolescents/family
- Swift **end to the exclusion** of the increasing number of persons who are affected by **electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS)** – recognition of relevant symptom patterns – establishment and support of protective zones with low or no exposure

We believe action should be taken immediately. We think that especially the government and its agencies are obligated to finally provide space for precautionary policies that allow for a humane development – a new precautionary approach that demands and supports progress that is compatible with human health and the environment.

For the Board's Team of the *Kompetenzinitiative e.V.*

Mario Babilon, Klaus Buchner, Peter Ludwig, Karl Richter

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