

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection ICNIRP – 2007/2008 REPORT

Introduction

This report summarises the activities of the Commission for the period between the meetings held in April 2007 and March 2008.

Commission Membership

The ICNIRP Commission membership remained unchanged this year. The membership of Standing Committee III was altered, following the resignation of Dr. Stuart Allen who was replaced by Dr. Simon Mann. Members profile are available on ICNIRP's website <http://www.icnirp.org>.

Commission Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the Commission was held in Oxford, United Kingdom, 2-4 April 2007. Two scientific meetings were held, in Bologna, Italy, 7-10 October 2007 and Munich, 13 December 2007.

Focus Group Meeting

The Chairman's Focus Group met on September 13 and in parallel to the meeting of the Working Group on Static Fields held at the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) in Munich on December 12, 2007. Business and administration issues were discussed, as well as details of organization of scientific workshops and Commission meetings sponsored by, or with the participation of, ICNIRP.

Work plan

The work plan for the next years has been updated based on the progress of the different task groups.

Revision of the ICNIRP guidelines for limiting exposure to electric and magnetic fields in the frequency range up to 100 kHz

The Task Group chaired by Rüdiger Matthes is developing a draft. Work is progressing. After priority was given to the drafting of the RF review performed for WHO, the document is intended for finalization in the course of 2008.

Revision of the Guidelines on Limits of Exposure to Static Magnetic Fields

After intensive work on the draft at the Commission Meetings in Oxford, the draft was sent for external review. The comments were examined by the whole commission at its meeting in Bologna, 7-10 October 2007 and at a meeting of the Working Group on Static Fields on 12 December in Munich. Members were asked to send their comments on the newly edited version. It is intended to complete the document at the Annual General Meeting 2008.

Protection of Indoor and Outdoor Workers to UV Exposure

The monograph "Protecting Workers from Ultra-Violet Radiation" was published in the ICNIRP "Blue Book" series jointly with WHO and ILO in Summer 2007.

Statement on EMF-emitting New Technologies

A statement on exposure and possible health risks related to new technologies was finalized by the Commission under the chairmanship of James Lin. After external review in the course of 2007, the comments were reviewed and the final draft approved at the Commission Meeting in October 2007. The statement was sent for publication to Health Physics and is expected to appear in Spring 2008.

Broad-band incoherent optical radiation (0,38 μm -3mm)

An update of the guidelines for "Broad-band incoherent optical radiation (0,38 μm -3 mm)" is on the way.

Medical ultrasound

A Task Group was created following suggestions made by the Commission in Tokyo. A draft was briefly discussed during the following Commission meetings. Future developments of the work will be discussed at the AGM.

Review of physical aspects, biological evidence and epidemiology - RF (100 kHz-300GHz)

Upon contract with WHO, a comprehensive RF-review was initiated. A preliminary draft prepared by Standing Committees I, II, and III has been submitted to WHO. As required by the contract, the final draft will be delivered in April 2008. The form of publication shall be discussed with WHO.

Publications

The following ICNIRP document have been published :

“Protecting Workers from UV Radiation”. Munich: International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization; 2007. ISBN 978-3-934994-07-2. The guide published in the ICNIRP “Blue Book” series is available for order at info@icnirp.org.

“EMF Dosimetry and Biophysical Aspects Relevant To Setting Exposure Guidelines”. Proceedings of an International Workshop, March 20-22, 2007, Berlin, Germany. Ziegelberger G, Vecchia P, Matthes R, Bernhardt JH, eds. Health Physics 92(6): 513-658; June 2007. The proceedings is available at Health Physics.

Workshops and Meetings hosted, organized by ICNIRP or with ICNIRP participation

As a widely recognized international organization in non-ionizing radiation protection , ICNIRP is invited to participate in, or co-sponsor, many international scientific events. In the period covered by this report, ICNIRP has organized and/or contributed to the following meetings:

Main Commission and SC meetings

- ICNIRP Annual General Meeting, Oxford, United Kingdom, 2-4 April 2007
- SCII meeting, Bordeaux, France, 14 April, 2007
- TG ELF meeting, Munich, Germany, 21-22 August, 2007
- SCIII meeting, Munich, Germany, 23-24 August, 2007
- SCIV meeting, Vienna, Austria, 27-29 August, 2007
- SCIV meeting, Baltimore, USA, 20-22 September, 2007
- SCII meeting, den Haag, Netherlands, 18 October, 2007
- ICNIRP Commission meeting, Bologna, Italy, 13 December 2007
- Working Group meeting (Static Fields), Munich, Germany, 12 December 2007
- ICNIRP Commission meeting, Munich, Germany, 13 December 2007
- SCIV meeting, San Jose, USA, 20-21 January, 2008
- SCI meeting, New York, USA, 28-29 January, 2008

- SCII meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 15 February, 2008

Workshops and Seminars

- Symposium “Low doses in the everyday life”, French Society for Radiation Protection (SFRP), 24 January 2007, Paris, France
- ICNIRP/BfS International Workshop on “Current Trends in Health and Safety Risk Assessment of Work-Related Exposure to EMFs”, 14-16 February 2007, Milan, Italy (see below)
- Forum “Non-Ionizing Electromagnetic Radiation and its Health Effects”, 2 March 2007, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- NIVA International Course on “Health Risk Management of Occupational Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields”, 5-9 March 2007, Saariselkä, Finland
- Workshop on “Risk Assessment of Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation”, 19 March 2007, Cairo, Egypt
- Seminar on “Electromagnetic Fields and Health: From Scientific Knowledge to Policy Options”, 22 March 2007, European Patent Office, Munich Germany
- OAS-CITEL International Workshop on “Technical and regulatory Aspects of Non-Ionizing Radiation Emissions”, 16 April 2007, San Salvador, El Salvador
- Brazilian Parliament Workshop on “Health and Environmental Effects of Electromagnetic Fields”, 18 April 2007, Brasilia, Brazil
- EC-JRC International Workshop “Effective Risk Communication in the Context of Uncertainty”, 2-4 May 2007, Stresa, Italy
- Round Table discussion on “Mobile Communications and Public Health”, 22 May 2007, Kiev, Ukraine
- EU-Russian Workshop on Harmonisation of technical regulation: electromagnetic safety and environmental legislation, 31 May 2007, St Petersburg, Russia
- International EMF Conference 2007 "Electromagnetic Fields, Bioeffects Research, Medical Applications, and Standards Harmonization", 4-6 June 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- WHO Workshop on “Developing and Implementing Protective Measures for ELF EMF”, 20-21 June 2007, Geneva, Switzerland
- Complutense University of Madrid – Summer Course “Electromagnetic Fields and Society”, 26 July 2007, El Escorial, Spain
- Symposium “15 Years of FGF”, 12 September 2007, Bonn, Germany
- Health Protection Against Electromagnetic Fields: Principles and Practices, 19 September 2007, Manama, Bahrain
- Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, 20 September 2007, Manama, Bahrain
- Symposium "EMF and Health: the answers of science, communication, and society", 11 October 2007, Rome, Italy
- Expert Advisory Panel on EMF Directive and MRI, 15 October 2007, London, United Kingdom
- International Workshop on “Health Risk Analysis and Management of Wireless Communication EMF Exposure”, 23 October 2007, Taipei, Rep. Of China
- Workshop "Human exposure to EMFs", 20 December 2007, Geneva, Switzerland
- Seminar on “Electric and Magnetic Fields in the Electric Sector”, 19-20 February 2008, Quito, Ecuador

Meetings with cooperation partners

- ICNIRP/EU Unit EMP/F/4 Meeting on the Implementation of EU Directive 40/2004, 24 April 2007, Luxembourg
- ICNIRP/EU Unit EMP/F/4 - Ad-Hoc working group of the Advisory Committee for Safety and health at Work dealing with EMF matters, 29 April 2007, Luxembourg
- EU Unit EMP - EU Meeting of the working party "Electromagnetic Fields" on MRI safety, 29 October, Luxembourg

ICNIRP/BfS International Workshop on “EMF Dosimetry and Biophysical Aspects Relevant To Setting Exposure Guidelines”, 20-22 March 2006, Berlin, Germany

To get views on different aspects of the guidelines as a basis for the re-evaluation of the ELF guidelines, an International Workshop on EMF Dosimetry relevant to Setting Exposure Guidelines was organized from 20-22 March in Berlin, Germany. Lectures and discussion provided useful hints on some open questions. The rapporteur’s report and a summary by the Chairman are available to the Commission. Comments are awaited from those who attended the Workshop. The proceedings of the Workshop were published in a Special Issue of Health Physics in June 2007.

ICNIRP/WHO/EMF-NET International Workshop on “Current Trends in Health and Safety Risk Assessment of Work Related Exposure to EMFs”, 14-16 February 2007, Milan, Italy

ICNIRP organized jointly with EMF-Net and WHO an International Workshop on “Current Trends in Health and Safety Risk Assessment of Work Related Exposure to EMFs”. The issue is of special importance for the development of adequate policies and measures to protect against occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields, especially in view of the European Directive 2004/40/EC. The rapporteurs’ report will be made available online. Information in this regards are available on the EMF-Net website.

Collaboration with International organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)

ICNIRP’s co-operation is mainly related to WHO’s International EMF project, and INTERSUN Programme.

European Commission (EC)

ICNIRP continues providing scientific advice to the EC especially to Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection, Enterprise Directorate General, and Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. This role has been enhanced with the participation of ICNIRP in two relevant projects within the 6th Framework Programme of Research, namely EMF-NET and EIS-EMF. ICNIRP provides scientific advice for the evaluation and interpretation of scientific data (EMF-NET), and for their dissemination (EIS-EMF). This year the cooperation with EMF Net through the organization of the joint workshop helped providing background information related to the implementation of the optical directive. ICNIRP also was asked to provide advice on the occasion of the EU Meeting of the working party "Electromagnetic Fields" on MRI safety, 29 October, Luxembourg.

International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

ICNIRP participated in the second meeting of the IRPA12 Scientific Committee, which was held on March 28-30 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in order to prepare the next IRPA Congress in 2008.

Collaboration with National Organizations worldwide

As part of its mission, ICNIRP provides scientific advice on NIR protection to national governments, in particular of countries of geographical areas whose role and participation in the international debates have so far been marginal. In the last year ICNIRP contributed with lectures in training courses and scientific meetings in such countries as Brazil, Taiwan, The Philippines, Malta, Dominican Republic, and Peru (see above).

Of special importance is the second workshop organized on a continental scale by the Inter-Regional Commission for Telecommunications (CITEL), and the Organization of the American States (OAS). The seminar took place in Salvador on April 17,2007 provided the opportunity to present ICNIRP's criteria and activities, and to promote the development of harmonized standards in Latin American countries.