

International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection ICNIRP – 2009 REPORT

Introduction

This report summarises the activities of the Commission for the period between the meetings held in January 2009 and December 2009.

ICNIRP Standing Committees Membership and Consulting Experts

With the End of the term of office 2004-2008, the ICNIRP Standing Committees were renewed this year. Election took place at the Annual General Meeting held in Paris, France, in March 2009 and the Scientific Meeting held in November in Salzburg, Austria. All standing committee members' and consulting experts profiles are available on ICNIRP's website <http://www.icnirp.org/cv.htm>.

ICNIRP Scientific Secretariat

At the Annual General Meeting held in Paris, the Commission confirmed the appointment of Dr. Gunde Ziegelberger until the end of the term of office in 2012.

Commission Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the Commission was held in Paris, France, 16-18 March 2009. One scientific meeting was held, in Salzburg, Austria, 25-27 November 2009 in conjunction with the ICNIRP/WHO International Workshop on Risk Assessment and Terminology.

Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Council met on 16 February in Munich and on 12 August in Munich . 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 from 1 to 100 kHz

The draft document was submitted to an open external review via the web in Autumn 2009. Around 50 comments were received from many different institutions and people representing the scientific community, private companies and the general public. All comments were studied by the Commission. Now the paper is being finalized and is intended for final approval by the Commission around Mid 2010.

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

The Static Magnetic Fields Guidelines were published in Health Physics in April 2009.

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)" was submitted to the Commission by Standing Committee IV at the meeting in Salzburg. The Commission is now to review and comment the draft. No publication deadline is defined yet.

Statement on "Medical magnetic resonance (MR) procedures: protection of patients".

In view of the publication of the Guidelines on Limiting Exposure to Static Magnetic Fields, the Commission had decided at its scientific meeting in Rio de Janeiro to rapidly update its *Statement*

on “Medical magnetic resonance (MR) procedures: protection of patients” issued in 2004. A task Group of the Commission prepared the first draft, which was submitted to the Commission for completion by the Beginning of 2009. The “Amendment to the Statement on Medical Magnetic Resonance (MR) Procedures: Protection of Patients” was published in Health Physics in August 2009.

Statement on the “Guidelines For Limiting Exposure To Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields (Up To 300 GHz)”.

Through publication of a statement on its EMF guidelines the Commission intends to clarify that it has tracked research published since 1998 and that the absence of publications on the subject is no sign of neglect of new studies but rather demonstrates the unbroken validity of its recommendations. Such a statement is needed especially in view of the fact that a revision of the RF guidelines is not expected to take place until 2 or 3 years from now. The statement was published in Health Physics in August 2009.

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

A comprehensive RF-review contracted by WHO was delivered. The review was published online in October 2009 and is available in the ICNIRP Blue Book series.

Statement on Protecting Workers from UV Radiation

A statement prepared by Standing Committee IV summarizing the corresponding ICNIRP report was amended by the Commission at the meeting in Salzburg and via e-mail. The latest draft is pending approval by the Commission before publication.

Review of optical radiation - Preparation of a literature review

It is intended to start the work on a complete review of science relative to optical radiation. A precise schedule is not decided yet.

Publications

In 2009 the following ICNIRP documents have been published:

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

The Static Magnetic Fields Guidelines were published in Health Physics in April 2009 and are available for free download at www.icnirp.org/pubEMF.htm.

Statement on the “Guidelines For Limiting Exposure To Time-Varying Electric, Magnetic, and Electromagnetic Fields (Up To 300 GHz)”

The statement was published in Health Physics in August 2009 and is available for free download at www.icnirp.org/pubEMF.htm.

Statement on “Medical magnetic resonance (MR) procedures: protection of patients”

The statement was published in Health Physics in August 2009 and is available for free download at www.icnirp.org/pubEMF.htm.

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:

ICNIRP Workshops, Main Commission and SC meetings

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| • ICNIRP Executive Council Meeting | Munich, Germany | 16 February |
| • ICNIRP Editorial Meeting | Munich, Germany | 17-18 February |
| • ICNIRP Annual General Meeting | Paris, France | 16-18 March |

- ICNIRP Editorial Meeting Paris, France 12-13 May
- ICNIRP Scientific Committee IV Meeting Munich, Germany 17-19 June
- ICNIRP Editorial Meeting Munich, Germany 12 August
- ICNIRP Scientific Committee IV Meeting Barcelona, Spain 17-19 September
- ICNIRP International Workshop on Risk Assessment and Terminology Salzburg, Austria 23-24 November
- ICNIRP Scientific Commission Meeting Salzburg, Austria 25-27 November

Workshops and Seminars

- EMF and Health: Science and Policy to Address Public Concerns Brussels, Belgium 11-12 February
- European workshop on Stakeholders' Perspectives on Impacts of the EMF Directive Ljubljana, Slovenia 18-19 February
- Workshop on Electromagnetic Radiation from Wireless Base Stations for Communications and Information Technology Systems Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 8 April
- ELF Electromagnetic Fields and Standards Beijing, China 22-23 April
- Cellular Systems, Base Stations and Their Effects Istanbul, Turkey 16 April
- ELF Electromagnetic Fields Sarajevo, B&H 3-4 June
- Electromagnetic Fields and Health Tripoli, Libya 14 July
- Occupational Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields: paving the way for a future EU initiative Umea, Sweden 6-8 October
- EMF Exposure and Health Arusha, Tanzania 2-3 November
- National workshop on EMF and health Kampala, Uganda 5-6 November
- International Conference EHE'09 Saõ Paulo, Brazil 17-19 November
- Telecommunications Antennas and Health Lima, Peru 1-3 December

ICNIRP/WHO International Workshop on Risk Assessment and Terminology, Salzburg, Austria, 23-24 November 2009

Organized by ICNIRP in cooperation with the World Health Organization and in conjunction with the research network on the Implications of Biomedicine for the Assessment of Human Health Risks (IMBA), the workshop received a wide interest from all ICNIRP stakeholders. Speakers from major international organizations in the field of health risk assessment provided lectures on the classification system established there. The aim was to get an overview of the approaches used by the most relevant national and international health related agencies for evaluating scientific

evidence on which to base health policy. These processes provide a structure that formalizes quantitative and qualitative assessments of the risk to health and prescribe specific language to communicate the strength of evidence. Applying quantitative evidence review to the effects of non-ionizing radiation on human health is under discussion. Another challenge faced is to provide an accurate translation of scientific information and terminology for the media, policy-makers and the general public. All information on the Workshop are displayed at <http://www.icnirp.org/RiskAssessment/RiskAssessment.htm> where also the presentations are accessible to the workshop participants.

Collaboration with International organizations

World Health Organization (WHO)

ICNIRP's co-operation is mainly related to WHO's International EMF project, and INTERSUN Programme. Also in 2009 WHO collaborated on the organization and co-sponsored the above mentioned workshop.

European Commission (EC)

ICNIRP provides scientific advice for the evaluation and interpretation of scientific data, and for their dissemination, especially to Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection, Enterprise Directorate General, and Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Cooperation with COST action

The new COST Action "Cooperation in the Area of Science and Technology" BM0704 started 2008 under Alastair McKinlay's leadership. ICNIRP is not formally a partner of the project, but the possibility of cooperation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Rüdiger Matthes attended the first COST meeting in May 2008. Further cooperation is expected in 2010.

International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

ICNIRP and IRPA are linked per Charter and the cooperation is within this framework. No particular action was undertaken in 2009.

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 Saudi Arabia and Uganda (see above).