Public health: limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields 0Hz-300GHz. Recommendation

1998/0166(CNS) - 10/03/1999 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

At first reading under consultation procedure, the European Parliament approved the proposal for a Council regulation on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields 0 Hz - 300 GHz subject to amendments, notably in the following areas: - making reference to Treaty provisions for protecting the health of workers and the rights of consumers, with particular reference to the safeguard principle and the ALARA principle; - requiring that, in accordance with the precautionary principle, the proposed Community framework with regard to exposure to electromagnetic fields must eliminate any possible public health hazard; - deleting reference to the guidance in this area provided by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and instead recommending that any advice in this area should be regularly reviewed and reassessed in the light of increased usage of devices which may increase exposure to electromagnetic fields; - noting that there is no uniform measurement at European level for product compliance and that there is a need to prevent new technical barriers to trade; - making more detailed provision with regard to minimum safety distances; - recommending that, in promoting and reviewing research relevant to EMF and human health, Member States should take account of research recommendations and efforts from the widest possible range of sources; - recommending that every effort be made to incorporate the implications for human health of the very extensive research carried out by many military experts throughout the world in this field; - inviting the Commission to propose, by 01/01/2001, a system of continuous review of devices generating electromagnetic fields with a view to protecting public safety; - inviting the Commission to produce a comprehensive comparative list of the limits applied in EU Member States and other major countries; - inviting the Commission to submit a proposal for the revision of directives 90/270/EEC on the minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment and 73/23/EEC and 92/75/EEC with a view to laying down safety criteria for electrical equipment capable of producing electromagnetic fields and to labelling such products for the benefit of consumers; - inviting the Commission to adapt the proposed recommendation by 2001 to take account of long-term effects in the light of the whole body of scientific literature, existing standards in the Member States and the precautionary principle; - underlining that the basic restrictions set out in the proposed recommendation include large safety factors only with respect to the thresholds for acute effects.