EETT Conference on "Mobile Telephony Antennas: A Responsible Dialogue for the Provision of Valid Information and Protection of Citizens".

The conference with the subject "Mobile telephony antennas: A responsible dialogue for the Provision of valid information and protection of citizens" was held with great success by EETT on Thursday 30th November 2006 at "Athinais" Conference Hall.

The conference agenda consisted of the following three subjects:

> Wireless Communications: Electromagnetic fields and Scientific Data.

> The Citizen's role in the New Environment: Methods of information & Protection.

> Views on the Current Regulating Environment-Suggestions for the Future.

The goal of the Conference was to provide information on the field of "mobile telephony" and to contribute to the thorough analysis of the multi-faceted issue of "mobile telephony antennas and electromagnetic radiation", from a scientific point of view. Moreover, the particular event provided the opportunity to all interested parties and bodies involved to present their opinions and to begin a substantial and productive discussion on mobile telephony antennas for the benefit of the Citizens.

Photo 1: *From left Nikolaos Koulouris (Vice-President of Electronic Communications EETT), Georgios Argyropoulos (President FITCE), Stefanos Vlachos (Major of Petroupoli), Nikolaos Tseberlidis (President KEPKA, Andreas Papamichail (Representative of the Board of Directors of Athens Medical Association), Nikolaos Vlassopoulos (Head of the Spectrum Division of EETT).*

As the President of EETT, Professor Nikitas Alexandridis noted in his welcome speech "We must all understand that in order for communication with mobile phones to be feasible, the installation of wireless networks is necessary (with base stations and their antennas) for transmitting and receiving signals. Moreover, as the use of mobile phones increases with the coming new services and applications, the need for "correct" design and installation of base stations becomes more imperative fo the sufficient quality and security of services to be ensured for all users…However, we all understand that the installation of base stations raises concerns among our fellow citizens who believe that they are exposed to danger, while these concerns may often lead to various reactions. Likewise, the issue of safe use of the mobile phone is also under discussion and it is under this scope that various researches or views are being published. Citizens must be responsibly informed about the dangers and possible wrong phobias which have been developed. In each case, we have to point out that evaluation of the risks must be made according to scientific methodology and take into consideration well grounded and verified conclusions".

The Conference was the beginning of a multiple and systematic programme of events hosted by EETT, based on the principle of "Information -Monitoring-Transparency". NTUA Professor Panagiotis Kottis, Member of EETT Plenum and co-ordinator of the programme in question

Photo 2: *From left, Efstathios Chaikalis (Coordinator), Teemu Lehtinen (Managing Director of the ELDEMAN, Brussels), Chrysa Chatzi, (Assistant, Greek Ombudsman, Head of the Life Quality Cicle) Nisim Benmajior (Certification Director, Ministry of Transport & Communications), Marillena Fatsea (Representative of Mobile Companies - Corporate Relations Director, COSMOTE).*

Photo 3: *The President of EETT, Prof. Nikitas Alexandridis*

underlined the goals of the campaign, which are:

> The protection of citizens.

> Contribution to the performance of reliable audits and continuous monitoring of the electromagnetic radiation.

> Buildings of citizens trust in institutions. Moreover, he stressed out that "the anticipated results of the campaign are to minimise the electromagnetic radiation on citizens, to clear their mistrust as to the function of installed antennas and preventive action concerning the new type of antennas and wireless applications".

EETT has presented its actions scheduled for the coming year, among which are the following:

1. Targeted provision of information through informative leaflets, events, personal meetings and enhancement of EETT's website.
2. Operation of semi-permanent monitoring stations which will be complete in three phases:
   - Pilot phase: 1 station by 1/2007.
   - Phase A: 3 stations by 3/3007.
   - Phase B: Gradual expansion throughout Greece).
3. Publication of all data on licensed antenna installation on the EETT website:
   - Phase A: Complete database at the beginning of 2007.
   - Phase B: Map of licensed systems in interactive form by 8/2007.
4. Preventive information to citizens on new wireless applications and technologies.
5. Hosting of e-roundtables though EETT's website, where all competent bodies may participate if they wish to and provide their views.
6. Continuous consultation and discussion in order to gain consent based on scientific data and international experience.

During the Conference, the importance of objective and integrated information to the public on issues of mobile telephony was stressed. Additionaly the role of EETT regarding citizen briefing whose emphasized the implementation of control and monitoring procedures, aiming both to the protection and minimisation of radiation effect on the population in general, and to the development of wireless communication.

Speeches/ presentations and the minutes of the Agenda are available at EETT's website (http://www.eett.gr/News-Announcements/Events).