



*Vienna Symposium on Safe Use of Digital Technology
From fascination to addiction & update on potential health
impacts of non-ionizing radiation from EMF/RF
(electromagnetic fields/radio frequencies) A follow up from
the Nicosia Declaration 2017*

Vienna 17 May 2018 at the Vienna Medical Chamber

Press Release

Wireless Internet and Mobile Communications: Vienna Medical Chamber demands careful handling. Symposium on new wireless and mobile technologies explains dangers - Szekeres: "Especially young people and children need protection"

Vienna (OTS) – With the publication of the “10 Medical Cell Phone Rules”, the Vienna Medical Chamber has been providing preventive medical measures for mobile communications and wireless internet for more than ten years. Now, the Medical Association organizes the “Vienna Symposium on Safe Use of Digital Technology” as a continuation of the Nicosia Declaration of 2017. Within the Nicosia Declaration, the Medical Association together with Cypriot institutions published protective measures against mobile phone radiation and rules for children and adolescents and also demanded the ban of Wi-Fi in kindergartens and schools. ****

For the President of the Medical Association, Thomas Szekeres, it is clear that the development of new radio technologies and demographic change will “bring new challenges to public health prevention and security”. It is therefore important “to address these questions objectively in the sense of a healthy and environmentally friendly digitization”.

Symposium initiator and environmental consultant of the Vienna Medical Chamber Piero Lercher now sees “digitalization in general and the various radio technologies in

particular as a constant companion of the human species”. The big challenge here is to enable “safe handling and the avoidance of potential health and environmental consequences without loss of comfort”.

The symposium will be accompanied internationally by the National Committee for Environment and Child Health of Cyprus and co-hosted by the Press and Communication Office of the Embassy of Greece in Vienna. Cyprus’s representative Stella Canna Michaelidou clarifies that “the scientific evidence pointing to damage that can be severe and in some cases irreversible, especially for new-borns and children, despite strong scientific controversy, is strong enough to support the use of preventative measures to minimize exposure”.

Konstantinos Prokakis, First Counselor and Head of the Press and Communication Office of the Embassy of Greece in Vienna, uses the current digital strategy of Greece as an example: “Especially in Greece, where digitalization is a great opportunity for economic recovery after the financial crisis, we are aware that incorrect use or abuse of new technologies entails potential risks”. It is therefore the task of the political institutions and society to counter these potential risks through coordination and governance in the fields of research, education and health.

Sbtl.: “Increase of DNA-breaks in human cells”

Due to the new technologies, there is an “unfavourable effect” on the body, namely “the increase in DNA-fractures in certain human cells,” notes the Vienna-based AKH physician and cell researcher Wilhelm Mosgöller. Current scientific analysis suggests that some cells are relatively more responsive, “a finding that is especially true for children and adolescents who have a greater percentage of metabolically active ‘growing’ tissues.”

Keynote speaker George Carlo criticizes above all the “lack of prevention thoughts of the responsible industry, which paired with our consumption behaviour and political expediency created this monster”. Carlo, who used to work for this “industry”, sees the future as ambivalent: “We have all the technological possibilities to master the challenges, but there is still a lack of societal motivation.” (ast)