

PHONEGATE

Cell Phone Radiation
Limits When
Contact Position

Learn More

▶ PHONEGATE: A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE FOR BILLIONS OF USERS WORLDWIDE

Dr. Marc Arazi, meeting C4ST, March 28, 2023
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INTRODUCTION: DR. MARC ARAZI

- ▶ French doctor whose work has led since July 2016 to the publication of French government documents revealing that mobile phones emit radiation levels above the limits set by European and international regulations. This scandal received worldwide attention and was dubbed "PHONEGATE"
- ▶ President and co-founder of the NGO Phonegate Alert since March 2018;;
- ▶ Author of the book Phonegate (Massot editions) in French and in English

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PRESENTATION: PHONEGATE ALERT NGO

► OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES

- PROTECT CONSUMER HEALTH
- PROMOTE SECURITY RECOMMENDATION CAMPAIGNS
- REQUIRE RELIABLE AND TRANSPARENT INFORMATION
- RECOGNIZE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MANUFACTURERS
- CONTRIBUTE TO THE REVISION OF STANDARDS

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SAR: an unreliable indicator to protect human health

- ▶ The SAR (specific absorption rate) measures only the thermal effects of local exposure to cell phone waves. No consideration of non-thermal effects
- ▶ The variables allowing the measurement of local SARs greatly reduce the level of local exposure of the user exceeding the levels at risk to health
- ▶ The measurement distance between the skin and the phone laptop is still unsuitable (10 to 15 mm in Canada and US)
- ▶ Measurement on 10 g of tissue (EU) / 1 g of tissue (FCC) increases exposure by 3
- ▶ The use by some manufacturers of spyware to manipulate SAR testing as in Dieselgate
- ▶ The use of the SAM dummy modeled on a soldier American (GI) not suitable for woman and children
- ▶ An indicator not compatible for measuring millimetric 5G

An industrial scandal on a planetary scale (part 1)

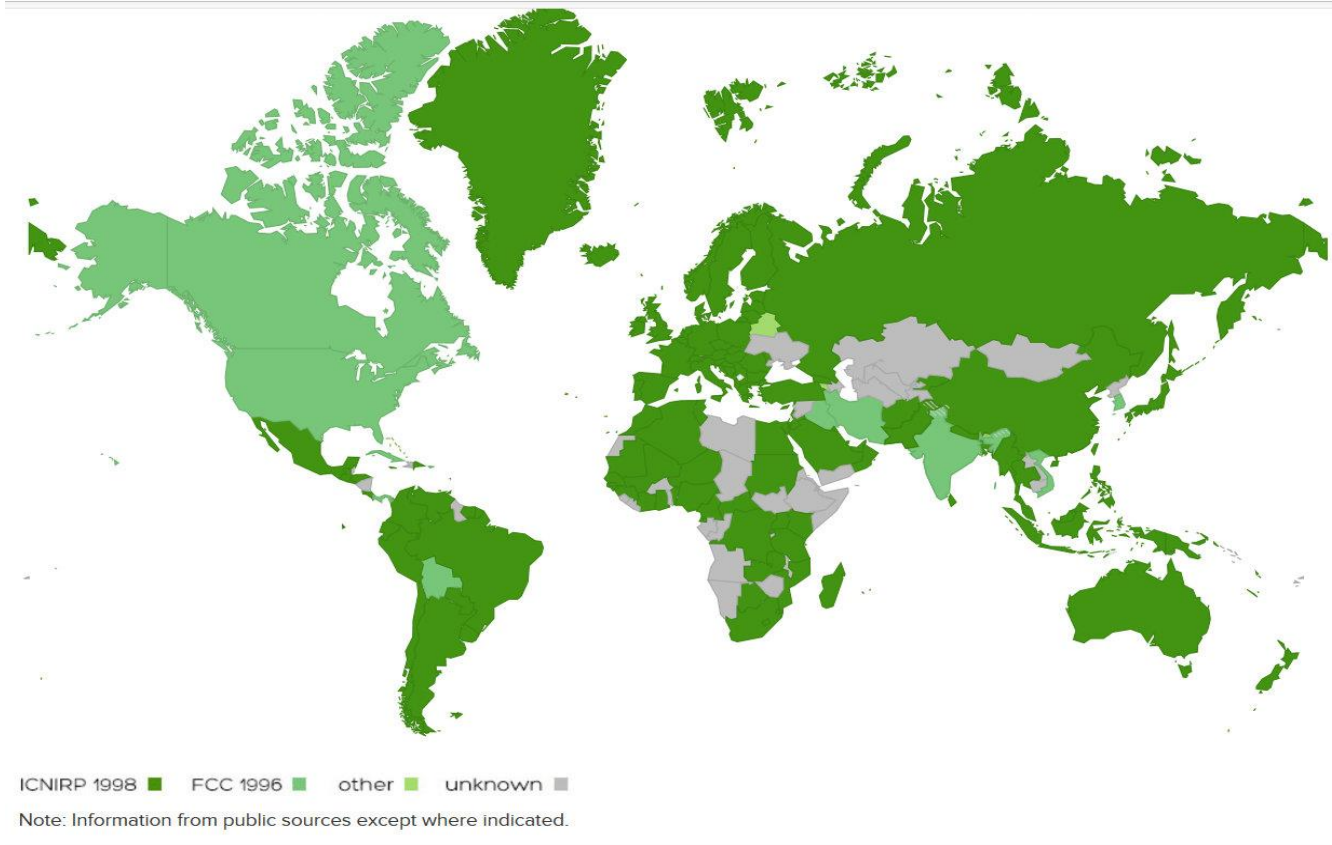
European Union and nearly 150 countries have followed the recommendations of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP),

The SAR limit is 2.0 W/kg, averaged over 10 grams of human tissue for 6 minutes of exposure to the head, trunk and limbs.

For whole-body exposure, the so-called “whole-body” SAR threshold is 0.08 W/kg, the average of which relates to the whole body¹.

In the United States, Canada and 17 other countries the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has required since 1998 that marketed phones have a SAR level of less than 1.6 watts per kilogram (W/kg) averaged over 1 gram of human tissue for 6 minutes of exposure to the head and trunk and 30 minutes for the limbs.

An industrial scandal on a planetary scale (part 2)



		(W/kg)
iPhone 8	6,156	2,875
iPhone 8	10,91	4,594
iPhone 8	10,168	3,298
Galaxy A10	4,243	2,035
Galaxy A3 201	5,721	2,076
iPhone 5S	5,131	2,364
iPhone 5S	8,597	3,288
iPhone 5S	12,139	4,145
iPhone 4S	7,073	3,331
iPhone 4S	5,084	2,447



Multiplication by 3 of the SAR level of a European consumer

SAR 1g/10g tests PERFORMED BY ART FI (France TV NOV 2020)

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Phonagate/France: 40 mobile phone models pinned for exceeding SAR limits

- ▶ Either withdrawn from the French market
- ▶ Or software update
- ▶ Fines for some manufacturers
- ▶ List available on our website www.phonagatealert.org/en
- ▶ None of these models pinned in other European countries
- ▶ No warning in the RAPEX database

Phonégate/Europe: Several actions at Parliament and Commission level

- ▶ Written questions tabled by MEPs since 2018, including those of Michele Rivasi in 2019
- ▶ Interpellation of Dr Arazi on the issues of Phonégate during a meeting organized on October 2019 at the European Parliament
- ▶ Filing in September 2020 of a **formal objection from France to measure the trunk SAR in contact with the skin** with the Commission European. Still without setting up during the SAR tests carried out today.
- ▶ New interpellation of Dr Arazi in February 2023 at the European Parliament (video available in our website)

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Launch of a European collaborative campaign in partnership with European for safe connections

- ▶ At the end of 2022, action aimed at writing to each national telecom regulators of the 27 countries of the European Union informing them of the situation in France
- ▶ Organizations from around fifteen countries have already contacted their agencies (Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Germany, Denmark, Slovenia, Estonia, Sweden,...)
- ▶ Several responses received (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, etc.)
- ▶ Objective to raise awareness among all stakeholders European regulation of mobile telephony

Der Fall Phonegate

STRAHLUNG. Handyhersteller wiesen jahrelang zu tiefe Werte aus. Kritiker sprechen von einem Skandal.

Vorsichtige Handynutzer wissen: Bei der Anschaffung eines Mobiltelefons sollte man auf den SAR-Wert achten. Diese spezifische Absorptionsrate gibt in Watt pro Kilogramm an, wie stark ein elektromagnetisches Feld beim Nutzen des Handys maximal auf den Körper einwirkt.

Je geringer der Wert, desto weniger wird das Gewebe durch die Strahlung erwärmt. Die Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO) hat zum Schutz der Gesundheit Grenzwerte festgelegt. Ein Handy darf bei maximaler Sendeleistung höchstens einen SAR-Wert von 2,0 W/kg erreichen.

Vor rund anderthalb Jahren veröffentlichte die französische Regierungsagentur Agence nationale des fréquences (ANFR) nach juristischen Querelen selber gemessene Strahlungswerte Hunderter Handymodelle. Resultat: Neun von zehn Modellen, die seit 2012 getestet worden waren, überschritten die ausgewiesenen SAR-Werte teilweise deutlich.

Der zentrale Punkt: Die ANFR hat die Strahlungsintensität direkt am Handy gemessen. Die Mobilfunkhersteller wiesen demgegenüber SAR-Werte aus, die in einem Geräteabstand von bis zu 25 Millimetern vom Körper erhoben worden waren. Weil die elektromagnetische Strahlung quadratisch zum Abstand der Quelle abnimmt, sinken die ausgewiesenen Werte schnell deutlich ab. So konnten die Hersteller Telefone verkaufen, die stärker strahlen und die Grenzwerte trotzdem einhalten.

Kunden «wissentlich getäuscht». In den USA spricht die renommierte Epidemiologin Devra Davis, Präsidentin des Environmental Health Trust (ein Umwelt- und Gesundheits-Thinktank), von einem «enormen internationalen Skandal» und rät dringlichst: «Tragen Sie nie ein eingeschaltetes Handy den ganzen Tag direkt an Ihrem Körper.»

Der französische Arzt Marc Arazi und seine Nichtregierungsorganisation Phonegate Alert werfen den Handy-

herstellern vor, sie hätten die Nutzer «wissentlich getäuscht» und sie einer deutlich zu hohen Strahlungsrisiko ausgesetzt. Die Organisation spricht von «Phonegate» in Anlehnung an «Dieselgate». Also an jenen Skandal, der die Autoindustrie erschüttert, seit angekündigt ist, dass bei den Abgasmessungen von Dieselfahrzeugen Tricks getrickelt wurde, um die strengen Umweltvorgaben zu erfüllen.

Zwar haben die Handyhersteller Tests manipuliert. Aber sie haben dafür gesorgt, dass bis vor kurzem gemessen werden durfte, dass die Geräte einen zulässigen SAR-Wert weisen konnten. Im Abstand von 25 Millimetern zum Handy. Die Norm geht auf 1998 und auf die Schweiz zurück. «Damals war es dort üblich, ein mobiles Telefon in einer Art Hosentasche oder Gürtel zu tragen, also nicht direkt am Körper», sagt Niels Kuster, Präsident der Ingenieurwissenschaften an der ETH Zürich. «Doch das entspricht schon nicht mehr der Realität.»

Phonegate/Switzerland: no official agency in charge of device compliance

- ▶ In 2018 and 2019, several questions submitted by some forty Swiss deputies to the Federal Council (interpellations 19.3180 as well as 19.4496)
- ▶ In December 2022, the Federal Department of, Transport, Energy and Communication (DETEC) Switzerland replied:
“After extensive research, the working group found that, as the legislation currently stands, there is no competent market surveillance authority in Switzerland for the health aspects of RNI products (e.g. verification compliance with the RNI limit values*).”

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Phonagate/USA: Legal Actions Against Apple and the FCC

- ▶ In 2019; the Phonagate affair revealed in the Chicago Tribune by Reporter and Awards Pulitzer Sam Roe
- ▶ In 2019, several collective actions launched against Apple and Samsung
- ▶ In August 2021, the American justice put in cause the telecoms regulator (FCC) for the lack of serious scientific bases in the determination of the standards of regulations and tests. The FCC is not appealing.
- ▶ In January 2023, the case against Apple goes to the Supreme Court



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Phonégate/Canada : justice validates the 1st class action against Apple et Samsung

- ▶ July, 2018 The Government of Canada banned the distribution of the Alcatel U 50 mobile phone for exceeding its regulatory emissions thresholds
- ▶ March 2022, publication following our actions SAR control results of 90 smartphones by ISED
- ▶ 8 exceed the regulatory levels, including the GOOGLE Pixel (head SAR of 5.27 W/kg and 4.02 W/g per 1g), the Razer Phone 2, the Redmi note 7,...
- ▶ September 2022, complainants allowed to launch a class action against Apple and Samsung

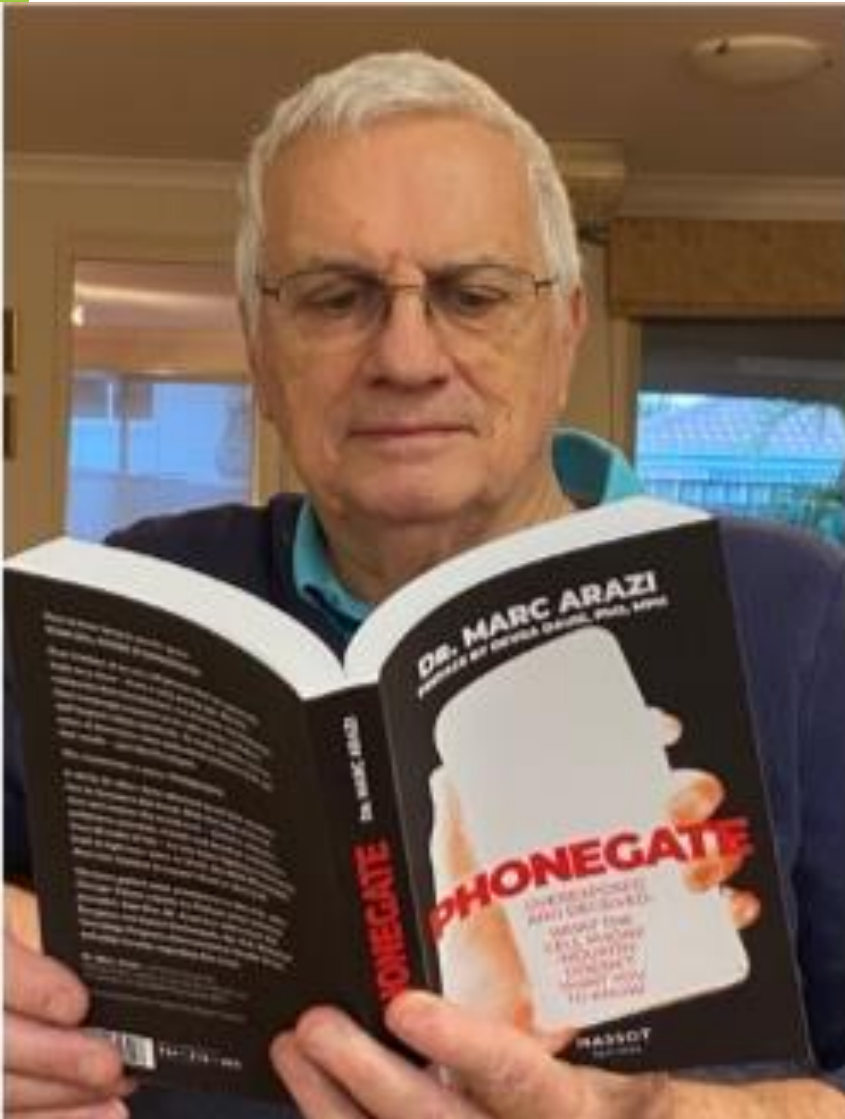
Realistic targets at European and international level to better protect the health of smartphone users

- ▶ Get regular testing of mobile phones and other connected objects in several other countries in Europe and around the world
- ▶ Ensure that each country publishes the tests in open data
- ▶ Publish sanctions against manufacturers who do not comply with regulatory SARs
- ▶ Withdraw or update the SAR of a mobile phone pinned in one country in all other countries in Europe, and in the FCC area
- ▶ Thoroughly review SAR testing procedures and the standards that govern them
- ▶ Mobilise the public authorities to support these objectives and to intervene in order to better inform and protect consumers/users

The major challenge of the WHO's reclassification of the carcinogenicity of mobile phone exposure



- ▶ Announced for the end of 2023 or early 2024
- ▶ An industry offensive to try to influence the WHO
- ▶ The example of the Mobi-kids study on cancer risks in children using mobile phones. A study undermined by conflicts of interest
- ▶ The need to mobilise all organisations in France, Europe and internationally to prevent the industry from winning this battle
- ▶ We started in France by suspending our participation in the ANSES dialogue committee



Thank you for your attention

To learn more about the subject and connect to our community:
Our website

www.phonegatealert.org/en

The Book and Ebook "Phonegate, Overexposed and deceived-What the cell phone industry doesn't want you to know

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/2958316904>

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And sign our petition

<https://phonegatealert.org/petition>