
The request for advice

On 2 July 2009, the Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment sent the following letter to the President of the Health Council of the Netherlands (ref. RB/2009043028):

Dear President,

Several months ago you sent me the report entitled "Electromagnetic fields: Annual Update 2008". I wish to thank you and your Committee for this.

Through the Annual Updates you keep me informed about scientific developments concerning the possible health effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields. The Annual Updates thus fulfil an important role socially speaking. In the 2008 Annual Update, you provided a comprehensive explanation of the procedure and methods you use to analyse data. In addition to this, you considered the effect of radiofrequency electromagnetic fields on brain activity and the association between exposure to such fields and the incidence of health problems. I am most grateful to you for this.

On 25 June 2008, MP Van Dam made a request to me and my colleague in Economic Affairs about an appraisal of a scientific study in Belgium that would show that rats die more quickly from GSM radiation.

In our reply to the House of Representatives, we wrote that the government is being advised on the current state of scientific development with respect to health aspects of electromagnetic fields by

your Electromagnetic Fields Committee. At the same time, however, we indicated that the Belgian research did not comply with the criterion for analysis by the Health Council, namely publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Because there is much interest in society in this subject I wish to ask you nevertheless to advise me on Dr Adang's thesis.

With reference to the above, I wish to put the following questions to you:

- 1 Could you provide a response with regard to the cited study?
- 2 Do you expect that the results of this research will cause you to modify your earlier conclusions with regard to possible health effects of mobile telephony?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours faithfully,

The Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment,
(signed)

Dr Jaqueline Cramer