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## Argentina seeks a national law against electromagnetic pollution

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One project limits the maximum levels of radiation, and establishes that in schools and hospitals the internet connections must be wired. The antenna installations will be subject to public consultation. Mercedinos in the back room

By Claudio Fabián Guevara

In the Chamber of Deputies of the Nation a bill was presented to prevent, reduce, control and sanction electromagnetic pollution. The text is entitled "Minimum budgets for the prevention and control of electromagnetic pollution," and was presented by Deputy Gabriela Troiano with the accompaniment of Carlos Rubin, Diana Conti and Carolina Gailard. It has the support of numerous NGOs, trade union and neighborhood organizations.

The project aims to give a regulatory framework to "radio infrastructure with radiant systems, antennas and all those facilities susceptible to generate electromagnetic radiation", in order to "ensure the protection of public health", considering "both the thermal effects As biological. "

The parliamentary initiative seeks to respond to a widespread citizen demand in the country and in the world, which has led to hundreds of protests, lawsuits and petitions against the authorities against the uncontrolled deployment of cellular antennas, power lines and other factors. electromagnetic pollution.

The law is based on a solid scientific foundation on the effects of electromagnetic pollution on health and behavior, and establishes measures and concepts that link it with other legal initiatives of the same type in other countries.

Among its most important aspects, the project establishes that the radiating devices must be installed at a minimum distance of 100 meters of inhabited areas. Limits maximum radiation levels to  $10 \mu\text{W} / \text{cm}^2$  (1000 microvatios) for analog modulation signals, and  $0.1 \mu\text{W} / \text{cm}^2$  for digital modulation signals. It also defines as "population exposure" situations in which the public is exposed to radiation sources and can not exercise control over it, and as "immission", to the radiation resulting from all sources of electromagnetic radiation present in a place .

In buildings intended for sanitary, educational and cultural uses, intensive protective measures must be applied. The installation of infrastructures capable of emitting radiation or generating electromagnetic fields on sanitary, educational, sports or cultural institutions with public access is prohibited within and within less than one hundred (100) meters of green spaces. In educational and health establishments only wired connections may be used for data networks and Internet access. In hospitals, cell phones can not be used in areas that health authorities consider to be at greater risk to health.

It is compulsory for all manufacturers or importers of equipment or any product or device capable of producing electromagnetic emissions, including the technical specifications where the levels of radiation they generate. In addition, a label should be included to warn of the harmful effects on human health that exposure to such levels may cause.

Companies providing communication services must in the marketing of mobile phone products, include the delivery of accessories or attenuating elements of the radiation towards the human body. Inform on the packaging of the product about the risks that generate for human health the use of mobile phones, specifically indicating the non-recommendation of use by the children.

#### ► Installation of antennas: public consultation

The article of the law provides that to authorize the installation of an antenna, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be carried out, communicate by registered letter to the owners and tenants of all buildings that are within a radius of 100 meters. The technical characteristics of the assembly and the date of the public hearing, and the publication of all these same records in a newspaper of mass scope in the locality.

The implementing authority should explain, in the grounds of the administrative act that authorizes the installation, how it has taken into account the opinions of the citizens gathered in the Public Hearing.

All infrastructures capable of emitting non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation, installed prior to the entry into force of this law or to be installed, must be modified and use the best technology available to comply with the standards established in this law.

Likewise, the Register of Emission Source of Non-Ionizing Electromagnetic Radiation is created. It must contain at least complete and up-to-date information on technical aspects of the antenna network and keep it up to date on a web page.

The Advisory Council for Electromagnetic Pollution is also created, whose function is to provide the same scientific, technical and socio-economic information and to recommend action and control measures conducive to the fulfillment of the objectives of

this law. The Council will be composed of scientists, experts and researchers of recognized trajectory on electromagnetic fields and their effects on health.

The law establishes a series of strong penalties for companies and individuals who violate them. The body that the Nation, the provinces and the city of Buenos Aires shall determine to act within the jurisdiction of each jurisdiction shall be an authority for the application of this law.

► Mercedinos in the back room

Some mercedes participated in the back room of the project.

Environmental lawyer Germán Sosena was in the consultative session of the project in Deputies, on March 16, and his work was recognized. The survey on the health of the neighbors around the masts, carried out by Evangelina Vícoli and Claudio Guevara in 2012, was requested by the promoters of the law as a precedent.

NGOs, neighborhood organizations and trade unions, promoting the initiative

Initially presented in 2011, 2012 and 2014 by the representatives Verónica Benas and Antonio Riestra, the project is now represented by the deputy Gabriela Troiano and accompanied so far by the deputies Carlos Rubin, Diana Conti and Carolina Gailalrd. Aletheia for Life, New Environment, Responsible Consumers, Network of Irradiated Neighborhoods, Sobral Ezpeleta Substation, Rigolleau Assembly, CTA Autonomous Province of Buenos Aires, ATE Province of Buenos Aires, Autoconvocados Residents of Campo Quijano ( Salta), self-convoking neighbors of Gral. Güemes (Salta), AVDA Neighborhood Association in Defense of the General Environment Cerri (Bahia Blanca), Villa Amaducci Development Society (Bahía Blanca), Pedro Pico Development Society - Le "Help the leukemic" (Bahía Blanca), Autoconvocados Neighbors of General Roca, Children's Forum Bahía Blanca, FUNAM, Neighborhood Association Dr. Enrique Finochietto Autonomous City, NGO Environment Comarca (Tornquist), UETTEL (Union of employees and Telecommunications technicians) and Environmental Health in Action Bahía Blanca, with the invaluable support of the SERPAJ Peace and Justice Service chaired by Dr. Adolfo Pérez Esquivel.