

Press release, 22 October 2025: The European Ombudsman opens an investigation into allegations of bias and maladministration in the processing by the European Commission of an expert report on the potential health effects of exposure to radiation from wireless technologies

The European Ombudsman has just opened a formal investigation into how the European Commission handled concerns about the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER)'s opinion on the potential health effects of exposure to radiofrequency electromagnetic fields (RF-EMF). RF is emitted by modern telecommunications technologies such as 5G, mobile phones, and Wi-Fi.

The investigation (complaint 1898/2025/MIK) follows a **joint complaint by several NGOs** that raised serious concerns about the scientific shortcomings of the SCHEER RF-EMF 2023 Opinion Report, which *"failed to identify moderate or strong evidence of adverse health effects from chronic or acute exposure to RF-EMF from existing technologies"* at levels below current limits.

However, after [critical examination](#) Following a thorough review of the SCHEER opinion, the NGOs concluded in a first complaint to the Commission in February 2025 that the SCHEER assessment was *"unreliable and highly biased"* and *"in flagrant contradiction with the position of the majority of the independent scientific community on the subject"*, which concludes that there is growing evidence of harmful health effects at levels below existing limits.

The NGOs claim that:

- Several members of the SCHEER working group responsible for the opinion had conflicts of interest due to their ties to industry or industry-funded research;
- No experts with more critical opinions on the health effects of RF exposure were invited, although there are many from high-level institutions;
- The group did not sufficiently consider peer-reviewed studies showing harmful effects of RF-EMF exposure below existing limits.

The Ombudsman does not assess the scientific content, but examines whether the Commission has put in place appropriate procedures to ensure independence, transparency, and balanced representation within its scientific advisory bodies. Specifically, the inquiry will assess how the Commission addressed the complainants' concerns and whether it acted transparently and reasonably.

Sophie Pelletier, President of PRIARTEM / Electrosensibles de France, welcomes this announcement: *"The European Ombudsman has conducted a thorough examination of our complaint. She believes that our grievances are serious enough to open an investigation and begin by questioning the European Commission on how it handled the appointment of experts. This is an important first step that has just been taken."*

Mona Nilsson, director of the Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation, said: *"The conclusions of the SCHEER opinion reflect the influence of the pro-industry experts selected to write it. Disregarding the extensive evidence demonstrating harmful effects below current exposure limits serves the interests of the powerful radiation industry."*

telecommunications to the detriment of public health. It is of the utmost importance that these experts responsible for the evaluation are independent and work in the public interest."

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Mona Nilsson, Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation

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Background Documents:

- April 2023: Publication of the final SCHEER opinion on the health effects of radiofrequencies [SCHEER RF-EMF report 2023](#)
- October 2023: Two NGOs publish an in-depth critique of the SCHEER [Critique of SCHEER Opinion Report](#).
- February 2025: Several NGOs send a complaint to the European Commission regarding the opinion of SCHEER. [NGO's complaint to European Commission 2025](#)
- July 2025: Several NGOs submit a complaint to the European Ombudsman after the Commission's response failed to adequately address the criticisms made in the complaint.

- October 2025: The Ombudsman decides to open an investigation into the Commission's handling of the case.

Examples of opinions issued by independent scientists that diverge considerably from the SCHEER opinion:

- ICBE-EMF 2022: ["Scientific evidence invalidates health assumptions underlying the FCC and ICNIRP exposure limit determinations for radiofrequency radiation: implications for 5G"](#)
- [Health Impact of 5G – European Parliamentary Research Service, 2021](#)
- [EMF Scientists Appeal signed by 268 scientists.](#)
- [EUROPAEM EMF guidelines 2016](#)
- [The BioInitiative Report](#)

Signatories of the complaint:

- PRIARTEM / Electrosensitives of France (France)
- Strålskyddsstiftelsen (Swedish Radiation Protection Foundation) (Sweden)
- Rådet for Helbredssikker Telekommunikation (Council for Safe Telecommunication) (Denmark)
- Europeans for Safe Connections
- May Day for Health and Freedom (Denmark)
- Associazione Malattie da Intossicazione Cronica e Ambientale (AMICA APS) (Italy)
- EHS Foreningen (Denmark)
- Comitato di Tutela Monte Porzio Catone (Italy)
- Associazione Italiana Elettrosensibili (Italy)
- Act for the Environment (France)
- Associazione per la Prevenzione e Lotta all'Elettromog (APPLE) (Italy)