

Mobile Phone Radiation and the EU's Phonegate Crisis

MEP Michèle Rivasi Questions the European Commission

By [Equipe Phonegate](#) and [Michele Rivasi](#)

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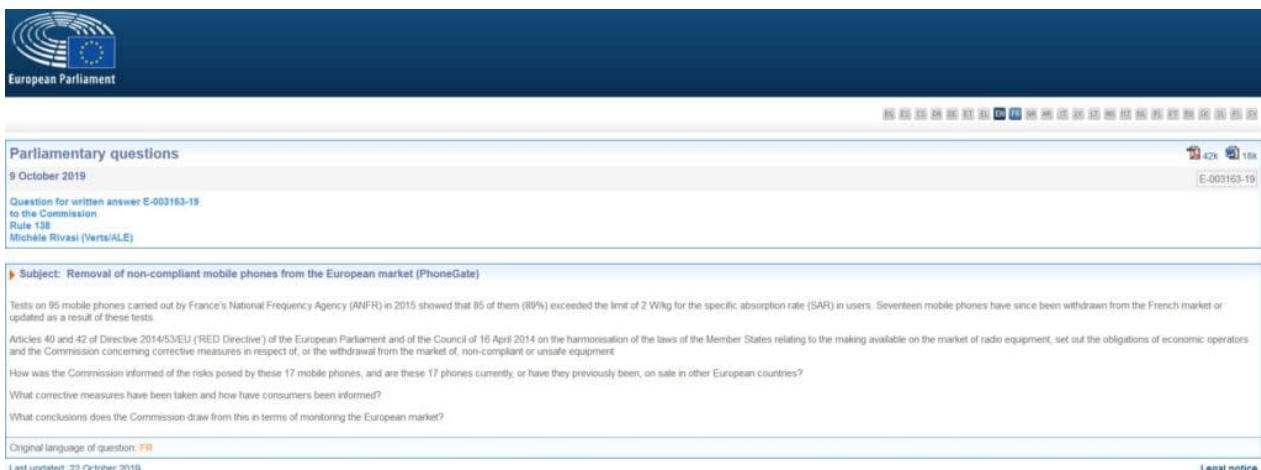
[Phonegate Alert](#) 15 November 2019

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

Following [the invitation on October 1, 2019 to the European Parliament of Dr Marc Arazi](#) by MEPs Philippe Lamberts, Michèle Rivasi and Klaus Buchner of the Greens/EFA, and the alert issued to parliamentarians and organisations gathered at this event on the Phonegate health and industrial scandal, a written question was tabled by Michèle Rivasi on October 9, 2019 before the European Commission.

We would like to thank her for her support and mobilisation at European level to protect the health of hundreds of millions of mobile phone users.



The screenshot shows the European Parliament website interface. At the top left is the European Parliament logo. Below it, the text "Parliamentary questions" is displayed, followed by the date "9 October 2019". The question is identified as "Question for written answer E-003163-19 to the Commission" under "Rule 138" and is attributed to "Michèle Rivasi (Verts/ALE)". The subject of the question is "Removal of non-compliant mobile phones from the European market (PhoneGate)". The main text of the question reads: "Tests on 95 mobile phones carried out by France's National Frequency Agency (ANFR) in 2015 showed that 85 of them (89%) exceeded the limit of 2 W/kg for the specific absorption rate (SAR) in users. Seventeen mobile phones have since been withdrawn from the French market or updated as a result of these tests. Articles 40 and 42 of Directive 2014/53/EU (RED Directive) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of radio equipment, set out the obligations of economic operators and the Commission concerning corrective measures in respect of, or the withdrawal from the market of, non-compliant or unsafe equipment. How was the Commission informed of the risks posed by these 17 mobile phones, and are these 17 phones currently, or have they previously been, on sale in other European countries? What corrective measures have been taken and how have consumers been informed? What conclusions does the Commission draw from this in terms of monitoring the European market?". At the bottom of the question text, it states "Original language of question: FR" and "Last updated: 22 October 2019". A "Legal notice" link is visible in the bottom right corner.

At the end of 2016, Europe had 745 million mobile subscriptions. What corrective actions will manufacturers and public authorities in the various Member States take to inform their customers and the public? Will existing models be “updated”, with software that will limit their influence? Which ones will be withdrawn from the market? MEP Michèle Rivasi is asking for urgent and precise answers from the European Commission in the management of this new health crisis affecting consumer protection.

Read the press release published by the MEP on 29 October 2019

Press release
Brussels, 29th October 2019
MEP Michele Rivasi

Overexposure of the public to mobile phone radiation: What is Europe

doing?

Do you keep your mobile phone with you, in the pocket of a shirt? Or glued to your ear to make a phone call? When worn close to the body, most mobile phones placed on the market before 2016 emit so much radiation that they exceed exposure limits. These are the official conclusions of a set of radiation measures made in France since 2012, which have remained largely confidential so far. In its opinion published on 21 October 2019, the Agence française de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES) recommends that measures be taken to ensure that users are no longer exposed to high levels when phones are worn close to the body. The alert came from France but the issue is also European, says MEP Michèle Rivasi, who has been following the impact of electromagnetic waves on life for more than 20 years.

“We knew that mobile phones “in motion” radiated more than the same phones used “motionless”. It is now a fact that most mobile phones worn against the skin are more dangerous than when held away from the body, used with an earpiece or on loudspeaker mode.

SAR, or Specific Absorption Rate, is the indicator used to estimate the body's exposure to radiation from a mobile phone. At the head or trunk level, the regulatory SAR limit value in France and Europe is set at 2 W/kg, the threshold above which biological effects have been observed.

Measures that are more in line with actual use conclude that the standards have been exceeded

Previously, SAR measurements were made at an average distance of 15 mm from the body. From now on, since 2016, the European RED directive requires the SAR to be measured by placing the mobile phone at a maximum distance of 5 mm from the skin. The results under these realistic conditions are then significantly different. Phones marketed with SAR values that previously met the standards are now exceeding them. “Tests on nearly 300 phones were carried out between 2012 and 2016,” summarizes the ANSES opinion published on 21 October. A large proportion of the phones tested had SAR values above 2 W/kg, some exceeding 7 W/kg on contact. »

On 1 October 2019, during a meeting I organised at the European Parliament on 5G and the precautionary principle, Marc Arazi of the PhoneGate Alert association warned:

“Most mobile phones exceed regulatory values but we also discovered that there was a 10-fold difference between the value displayed in the manuals and advertisements of some manufacturers and the DAS value found in tests in France. Other independent tests conducted in 2018 and 2019 in the United States at 2 mm from the skin show that several very popular phones exceed the ceilings. The iPhone 7 has values twice as high as the American standard of 1.6 W/Kg. For the iPhone 8, this is three times the norm. The Samsung galaxy S8 has the most worrying rates: five times the US standard. This is a widespread, systematic and large-scale deception by manufacturers against consumers about a legal value - the DAS - indicating the conformity and the absence of health danger of a mobile phone. »

What is Europe doing to inform its 500 million consumers?

Articles 40 and 42 of Directive 2014/53/EU (RED Directive) on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the availability of radio equipment on the market, lay down the obligations of the economic

operator and the Commission as regards corrective measures or withdrawal from the market in respect of equipment which does not comply or which may present a risk.

In my written question at the beginning of October, I reminded the Commission that when 95 mobile phones were tested in France in 2015, the Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of 85 of them (89% of phones) was above the limit value (2 W/kg) when the phones were tested in contact with the body. Since then, as a result of these controls, 17 mobile phones have either been withdrawn from the market or updated in France. At the end of 2016, Europe had 745 million mobile subscriptions. What corrective actions will manufacturers and public authorities in the various Member States take to inform their customers and the public?

The most radiating mobiles must be removed from the market!

These facts are very serious and should not be overlooked. For several years now, we have been denouncing the methods used to calculate the SAR, which are too vague, too approximate and, above all, underestimate people's actual exposure. The measures taken in France, which the PhoneGate Alert association has made public since 2016, reveal the importance of the scandal.

By reducing public exposure measures, manufacturers have knowingly and deliberately caused the massive overexposure of several hundred millions of people throughout the European Union to mobile phone radiations, to values above the legal limits. And this has been the case for nearly 20 years for the oldest users.

The official alert comes from the French authorities, which have announced that they have asked the European Commission "to strengthen the requirements applicable to new mobile phones placed on the market". But what exactly is the situation? What about the old models? Will they be "updated", with software that will limit their influence? Which ones will be withdrawn from the market? We expect urgent and precise answers from the European Commission in the management of this new health crisis affecting consumer protection. It should be recalled that since 2011, in the light of available studies, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified microwave radiation from mobile phones as a "possible carcinogen". Denial is no longer an acceptable option.

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Sources

October 1, Workshop on 5G, Health Risks and Precautionary Principle

"No impact studies on life and the environment? No 5G!"

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October 9, 2019, Written question by Michele Rivasi

"Removal of non-compliant mobile phones from the European market (PhoneGate)"

http://bit.ly/Rivasi_PhoneGateEU

October 21, 2019, Opinion on the ANSES Report of July 2019

“Exposures to mobile phones worn close to the body”

http://bit.ly/Rivasi_ANSES_DAS

October 25, 2019, Communiqué of the French Government

“to limit exposure to emissions from certain mobile phones and better inform the public”

https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/191025-_cp_anses.pdf

The RED Directive

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014L0053>

The PhoneGate Alert Association

<https://www.phonegatealert.org>

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