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The Danger of the 5G Network in Factories and in the Area

Below is the speech made on behalf of the Lombardy Communist Coordination during the Assembly-debate on the anniversary of the Thyssen massacre [from a fire leading to the deaths of seven workers in a Thyssen-Krupp plant in Turin, December 6, 2007 – *translator's note*], held in Turin on December 7, 2019.

Today we are gathered here on the occasion of the massacre of Thyssen workers in order to build the unity and organization the workers need to oppose the subordination of health to the logic of profit and the market and to claim the right to safety at the workplace and the area.

As the Lombardy Communist Coordination we want to bring our solidarity and support to this important initiative by emphasizing what will almost certainly be one of the next frontiers to combat danger in the factories and urban centers.

We are referring to 5G technology, i.e. the fifth generation mobile communication network, whose harmful effects on workers and the general population are deliberately discussed very little by the authorities and institutions. However, there is much confusion even among the most advanced workers who are fighting for health protection.

One of the technological requirements of the new production model called Factory 4.0 is precisely the existence of an extremely fast communication infrastructure capable of simultaneously supporting millions of transmissions, each with a large amount of data.

In fact, in order for the Factory 4.0 production model to achieve the maximum possible capability, it is expected that every single elementary component in the finished product will incorporate a microchip that controls the production process by communicating with other microchips present in robots and machines, with computers that manage the workshop stocks, with computers that provide the external components, with computers that plan production, etc.

Without going into technical details, the 5G mobile communication network, in order to respond to these technological requirements, must use with very high-frequency microwave transmissions (i.e. millimeter waves); however so far these are reserved for the military to develop new generations of weapons mainly intended to repress the population (such as the United States Department of Defense's Non-Lethal Weapons Program).

Millimeter waves are limited in their ability to transmit beyond a short distances and their signals blocked by obstacles such as walls, trees, etc.; therefore, the 5G network needs countless transmitters placed at a maximum distance of 50-100 meters from each other and at the height of a human being in order to function.

This means that, in 4.0 factories, the departments will be filled with transmitters that will continuously expose workers to millimeter-wave radio frequency radiation; this is only the start, however, because the next phase of 5G will expose the population at mass level, to make it possible, for example, to implement self-driving vehicles or the “Internet of Things.” Just think that within a few years, the installation of millions of transmitters are planned in the area, as well as the launching into space of over 20,000 dedicated satellites, over 200 billion objects that will incorporate transmitting microchips. This means that if the 5G network is completed, no human being, no animal, no microorganism and no plant on Earth will be able to avoid exposure, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year, to radiation levels at radio frequency thousands of times greater than those that exist today, with no possibility of escape.

What is the problem? We are not against progress if this benefits the workers and population in general!

The problem lies in the harmfulness of radio frequency radiation. As early as 2011 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) classified radio frequency radiation as potentially carcinogenic to humans. Since then thousands of independent scientific studies, ignored by governments and discredited by biased counter-research, financed directly or indirectly by the industries in that sector, have shown harmful short-term effects, such as alterations of heart rhythms, alterations of brain function (dizziness, nausea, headache, memory loss and inability to concentrate) and long-term effects, which often appear only 20 or 30 years later, such as cancer, heart disease, collapse of the immune system and neurological problems.

The causal link between exposure to radio frequency radiation and the harmful effects have been emphasized, among others, by two agencies that together represent the world's leading authorities in the field: the United States government's National Toxicology Program and the Ramazzini Institute of Bologna in Italy. The latter analyzed radio frequency radiation exposures a thousand times lower than those used in the study on cell phones conducted by the National Toxicology Program and yet found the same types of cancer.

Both studies have found statistically significant increases in the development of the same type of malignant heart tumors in exposed male rats and brain tumors in female rats. Therefore, as stated by the Ramazzini Institute, the observation of an increase in the same type of tumors, however rare, thousands of kilometers away, in rats of the same strain exposed to the same radio frequency radiation is not coincidental. It is also very important to emphasize the fact that epidemiological studies (i.e. population studies) have found same type of tumors in heavy cell phones users.

If these are the health risks associated with the use of 5G technology, the analogy to the tragic history of asbestos, the harmful effects of which had been known since 1906 but which was only banned in Italy in 1992, cannot fail to come to mind, and still continue to cause deaths.

Being aware of the threats to the health of workers and the population in general from modern technologies that support the new Factory 4.0 production model allows us to organize more effectively to resist the destruction of life and the environment and to begin building of a society free from danger and profit.

Lombardy Communist Coordination