

Dit is een vertaling van de Open Brief die op 18 juli 2016 aan de Wereld Gezondheidsorganisatie (WGO) gericht is, op initiatief van Christine Metcalfe uit Schotland. Vertaling: Dr M. Oud

De oorspronkelijke Engelstalige brief vindt u aan het einde van dit document, en bijvoorbeeld op <https://www.scribd.com/document/319161091/Open-Letter-to-Members-of-the-Panel-Developing-the-WHO-Environmental-Noise-Guidelines-for-the-European-Region-1-1>.

Open brief aan de leden van het comité dat de WGO Richtlijnen voor Omgevingslawaai ontwikkelt voor de Europese Regio.

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Mark Brink.
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Marco Paviotti.
Göran Pershagen
Kerstin Persson Waye.
Anna Preis.
Stephen Stansfield.
Martin van den Berg.

Dames en Heren,

Wij begrijpen dat u momenteel bezig bent met het ontwikkelen van WGO Richtlijnen voor Omgevingslawaai. Wij begrijpen ook dat:

1. De nieuwe Richtlijnen gebaseerd zullen worden op een evaluatie van aanwijzingen dat omgevingslawaai gevolgen voor de gezondheid heeft, in het licht van een aanzienlijke hoeveelheid onderzoek dat de laatste paar jaar is verricht.
2. De richtlijnen een inventarisatie zullen maken van aanwijzingen dat geluidreductie en interventies om geluidniveaus verlagen gunstige effecten op de gezondheid hebben.
3. Die evidentie systematisch bestudeerd zal worden om mogelijke effecten te bepalen, zoals: slaapverstoring, hinder, cognitieve problemen, geestelijke gezondheid en geestelijk welzijn, cardiovasculaire ziekten, gehoorproblemen en oorsuizen en schade bij het ongeboren kind.

Een van de geluidhinderbronnen die u onderzoekt is die van windturbines, hetgeen niet in eerdere richtlijnen aan de orde kwam.

We verwelkomen uw evaluatiestudie omdat in veel Europese landen al veel te lang maatregelen ontbraken in hun regels voor ruimtelijke ordening en in hun **geluidhinderregelgeving**, maatregelen ter voorkoming van schadelijke gezondheidseffecten na de bouw van windturbines, met name **met betrekking tot geluid onder de 200 Hz**. Dit ondanks groeiend empirisch en academisch bewijs.

Er is een dringende behoefte aan nieuwe richtlijnen om beter te kunnen bevorderen dat overheden de gezondheid van hun burgers waarborgen.

U zult begrijpen dat deze problemen niet beperkt zijn tot Europa. Evenmin zijn ze beperkt tot mensen.

Wij spreken de hoop uit dat uw beraadslagingen zullen resulteren in strenge nieuwe Europese richtlijnen, die op hun beurt zullen leiden tot een serieus wereldwijd onderzoek naar alle aspecten van dit probleem, met inbegrip van de alom-gerapporteerde effecten op dieren.

Hoogachtend,

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Open Letter to the members of the panel developing the WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region.

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Anna Preis.
Stephen Stansfield.
Martin van den Berg.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We understand that you are currently in the process of developing the WHO Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region as a regional update to the WHO Community Noise Guidelines. We also understand that:

1. The new Guidelines will be based upon a review of evidence on the health effects of environmental noise in the light of significant research carried out in the last few years.
2. The guidelines will review evidence on the health benefits of noise mitigation and interventions to decrease noise levels.
3. The evidence will be systematically reviewed to assess likely effects such as: sleep disturbance, annoyance, cognitive impairment, mental health and wellbeing, cardiovascular diseases, hearing impairment and tinnitus and adverse birth outcomes.

One of the sources of noise you are investigating is that from wind turbines which was not addressed in previous guidelines.

We welcome your review because, despite mounting anecdotal and academic evidence, for too long mitigation against adverse health effects following the construction of wind turbines has been absent from planning guidelines and **noise pollution regulations** in many European countries, especially **with respect to sound below 200 Hz.**

There is a pressing need for new guidelines to encourage governments better to safeguard the health of their citizens.

You will be aware that these problems are not confined to Europe. Neither are they confined to human beings.

We are hopeful that your deliberations will result in tough new European guidelines which in turn will prompt a serious worldwide examination of all aspects of this problem, including the widely-reported effects on animals.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned: