



## PRESS RELEASE

2 April, 2009

### **Alliance for MRI welcomes European Parliament support to protect the future of Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

Today the European Parliament adopted MEP Frederique Ries' own-initiative report on health concerns associated with electromagnetic fields, which calls for a derogation for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) from the scope of Physical Agents 2004/40/EC Directive on electromagnetic fields.

The Alliance for MRI, a coalition of patient groups, representatives of the medical community, leading scientists, researchers and MEPs from across Europe, welcomes the European Parliament's call for a derogation for MRI from the scope of this Directive. This derogation is vital to safeguarding the unimpeded clinical and research use of MRI.

MRI technology is at the cutting edge of research, diagnosis and treatment of life-threatening diseases for patients in Europe. The technology has been safely used for over 25 years, with over 500 million patients exposed to up to 100 times the occupational exposure limit set by the Directive, without evidence of harm to workers or patients.

The established MR safety standard IEC/EN 60601-2-33 (as amended and harmonised under the Medical Devices Directive) establishes limit values for time-varying electromagnetic fields, which have been set so that any danger to patients and workers is excluded.

It is essential that this major advance in health care technology is not threatened by burdensome legislation when concerns can be addressed through responsible guidance to medical and service personnel (Guidelines have been developed by radiologists together with other healthcare workers).

The Alliance for MRI was officially launched in March 2007 in response to the implementation of the EU Physical Agents 2004/40/EC (EMF) in April 2008. The Alliance for MRI was instrumental in raising awareness of the threat posed to MRI and obtaining the postponement of the Directive. The European Commission is currently undertaking an impact assessment in relation to the Directive and the European Commission is expected to propose an amendment to the Directive by April 2010.

Further information is available at [www.alliance-for-mri.org](http://www.alliance-for-mri.org)