



# The mandate

*Public Hearing on the preliminary opinion on Biological effects of ultraviolet radiation relevant to health with particular reference to sunbeds for cosmetic purposes*

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## Background (1)

In 2006, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) provided an opinion on the biological effects of ultraviolet radiation (UVR) from sunbeds

- *the use of UVR tanning devices for cosmetic tanning was likely to increase the risk of malignant melanoma of the skin and possibly ocular melanoma.*



## Background (2)

- CEN/LEC harmonised standard was revised in 2009, specifying a maximum allowed limit for effective irradiance of  $0.3 \text{ W/m}^2$ .
- From 2008-2011, 12 MS participated to Joint Market Surveillance Actions co-financed by the consumer programme whose main objective was to improve the enforcement of the  $0.3 \text{ W/m}^2$  limit for UV radiation and consumer information, based on the SCCP opinion and the revised standard.



## Background (3)

- In 2012 the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reviewed all the evidence pertaining to the carcinogenic effects of UVR from sunbeds, and classified use of UV-emitting tanning devices as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1).
- The European Parliament has showed their interest by hosting awareness raising events organized by the European Cancer League and requesting to strength the health and consumer voice in the standardisation process.



## Background (4)

- In January 2015, the European Commission requested the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) to review recent evidence in order to improve the understanding of risks associated with UVR in general and with sunbeds in particular and provide an updated opinion.
- The **mandate** was prepared by DG SANCO in cooperation with DG ENTR (currently DG JUST Unit E3 and DG GROW unit C3).



# Terms of Reference

In view of new medical evidence and the development of science and technology over the past decade, including the Scientific Justification which underpins The European Code against Cancer and in particular the recommendation on UV radiation, the SCENHIR is asked to reassess the safety risks associated with the use of sunbeds and to provide an answer to the following questions:



1. Does new scientific and medical evidence (collected over the past decade) have a significant impact on the conclusion of the previous SCCP Opinion of 2006 with regard to the general health and safety implications relating to the exposure of people to UV radiation (UVR)? If yes, what are the key elements to be considered and how is the health of users of tanning devices for cosmetic purposes (sunbeds) likely to be affected (both positively e.g., Vitamin D regulation and negatively, e.g., skin and ocular melanoma).
2. Does SCENIHR uphold the assessment of the SCCP that the limit value of the Erythemally-weighted irradiance of  $0.3 \text{ W/m}^2$  (equivalent to an UV index of 12) ensures sufficient levels of protection for the health and safety of users? If this is not the case, please specify if it is sufficient to give specific information. If it is not sufficient to provide information, please specify the limit values above which adverse health effects can occur.
3. What should be the wavelength range for which the total Erythemally-weighted irradiance should be negligible (e.g. under  $0.003 \text{ W/m}^2$ ) to minimise the risks of developing skin cancer due to the use of sunbeds ?



# Why a public hearing?

- The preliminary opinion was published on 22 January 2015.
- SCENHIR procedures for adoption of opinions foresee the organisation of a public hearing as part of the open consultation.
- The European Commission has considered useful the organization of this public hearing to facilitate for a transparent and open discussion between the Scientific Committee members, the stakeholders and the European Commission.



