



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Consumer goods
Director

Brussels, **21 MARS 2007**
ENTR/F/3/RM/bl D(2007)

Dear Mrs Duus Johansen,
Dear Mrs Søsted,
Dear Mr Menné,

Thank you for your letter of 7 February 2007 to Vice-President Verheugen regarding safety concerns for hair dyes and risk of allergy.

Following the SCCP opinion of June 2001, on a possible link between the long term use of permanent hair dyes and the development of bladder cancer, the Commission, together with Member States and stakeholders, agreed in 2003 on an overall strategy to regulate hair dyes within the Cosmetics Directive (76/768/EEC). The strategy foresees a ban on all hair dyes for which no safety files have been submitted or for which the SCCP gives a negative opinion. In this context, the sensitization properties are also assessed.

In December 2006, the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) adopted a memorandum drawing the attention of the Commission to the fact that many of currently used hair dye substances are skin sensitizers, and that this property may be of concern for the health of consumers. The memorandum is based on the same evidence as mentioned in your letter.

Many of the hair dyes examined by the SCCP proved to have strong, or even extreme, skin sensitising properties. Therefore, it is now necessary to urgently collect more data to determine the possible risks to consumers, the occurrence of allergies among hair dye users and the extent of skin allergies in the population due to the use of hair dyes. At the same time, threshold values for these sensitizers may need to be determined. These elements will help us to enhance the current preventive measures in order to ensure adequate protection of consumers.

Mrs Jeanne Duus Johansen
Mrs Heidi Søsted
Mr Torkil Menné
National Allergy Research Centre
Department of Dermatology
Gentofte Hospital
University of Copenhagen
DK-2900 Hellerup

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: BREY 10/258. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 295.97.29. Fax: (32-2) 296.64.67.

E-mail : entr-cosm-med-dev@ec.europa.eu

Based on the memorandum, the Commission's services will now consider relevant data needs and appropriate policy options aiming to minimise possible risks of allergic reactions to hair dyes. Given your organization's expertise in the field of dermatology, your comments and suggestions on improvement of the existing measures would be greatly appreciated. Please send these contributions to Mr Roman Mokry ({ HYPERLINK "mailto:roman.mokry@ec.europa.eu" }, tel. +32 2 295 97 29) who is in charge of the file.

Yours sincerely,



Georgette Lalis