

MARKOS KYPRIANOU

MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels 03. 04. 2006
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Dear Dr. Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 2 February 2006 concerning the use of phenylenediamine (PPD) in hair colouring applications and its impact on consumers and professional hairdressers.

I understand and share your concerns about the issue of skin allergies linked to the safety of this and other chemicals used in consumer products. The Commission is committed to ensuring a high level of consumer health protection from potential risks linked to chemicals in consumer products on the basis of sound scientific advice and precautionary considerations.

Like all other hair colorants, PPD is regulated under the Cosmetics Directive (76/768/EEC), which falls under the competence of my colleague Vice President Verheugen. I have therefore passed your letter to him for a response to the specific points you raise on the safety of PPD.

As concerns the work of the Commission's Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP), which operates under my competence as Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, the SCCP is currently initiating a robust, high quality scientific review of the safety profile of PPD which I expect to be delivered in the autumn. This will allow us to address any potential health concerns that the SCCP may identify.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards



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