

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0391/04  
by Alexander de Roo (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Hair dye and cancer risks

Many women over the age of 45 and a growing minority of men over the age of 45 dye their hair regularly. New American research (published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, January 2004) shows that women who started dyeing their hair before 1980 have a 40% higher chance of contracting Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, a malignant disease of the lymphatic system.

In 2002 American researchers (University of Southern California) had already ascertained that regularly dyeing the hair led to a doubling in the risk of bladder cancer. The substances in hair dye also cause a higher incidence of cancer of the uterus.

It is probably toxic chemical substances such as para-phenylene diamine (PPD) and tetrahydro-6-nitroquinoline that cause these forms of cancer.

Does the Commission agree that the abovementioned toxins must not be allowed to occur in consumer products such as hair dyes?

What is the current situation as regards the scientific investigations being carried out by the Scientific Committee for Cosmetic Products, as announced by the Commission on 17 January 2002 in its answer to a written question by Torben Lund (E-2881/01<sup>1</sup>)?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C 115 E, 16.5.2002, p. 185.