

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0859/04
by Torben Lund (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Hair dyes and serious damage to health

On 4 March 2004, the Danish newspaper Jyllands Posten carried a report concerning several investigations which indicate that a number of authorised hair dyes cause serious damage to consumers' health. The sector is regulated by the Cosmetics Directive.

In the light of the abovementioned investigations, does the Commission believe that a positive list should be drawn up for hair dyes and that hair dyes should be tested for risk of cancer and allergy before they are approved? The extent of the health hazards are not fully known as the industry will not allow access to its records. Is this information known to the Commission and how many reports concerning allergies caused by hair dyes does the Commission receive each year? Will the Commission also say whether a revision of the Cosmetics Directive will compel the industry to allow public access to reports concerning health problems caused by their products? Finally, will the Commission say when the eighth amendment of the Cosmetics Directive - or other relevant initiatives - is expected to commence, what changes may be proposed and whether the Commission will make the precautionary principle a key feature of the forthcoming revision?