



# Health & Consumer Protection Directorate General

## New Risk Assessment Guidelines for Consumer Products

Commission Workshop  
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## Why this Workshop?

- To improve risk assessments of consumer products
  - Quality and transparency of individual assessments
  - Consistency between assessments
- To strengthen consumer protection

## Where did it come from?

- Divergent risk assessments of the same consumer product from
  - different authorities
  - authorities and manufacturers
- Different perceptions of risks
- Application of current Guidelines not always clear

# Who developed the new Guidelines?

- Commission expert Working Group
  - 21 experts nominated by 13 Member States
  - « IRAG WG »
  - 8 meetings in 2006 and 2007
  - Co-ordination with other risk assessment activities: EMARS project (PROSAFE), Eurosafe WG

# Main features of the Guidelines

## ■ More clarity

- Elements of a risk assessment clearly separated
- Step-by-step instructions
- Standard tables for each step
- Computer programme planned

## Main features of the Guidelines (cont'd)

- More transparency and communication
  - Documentation of each step obligatory
  - Outside world can better accept/discuss the assessment
- More flexibility
  - Any risk scenario allowed: Severity of injury and its probability provide for balance

## Next steps

- Public internet consultation
- Inclusion in the overall RAPEX Guidelines
- Revision of overall RAPEX Guidelines
- Adoption in 2008?

Constructive Workshop today =  
1st step for further improvement and  
acceptability of the new  
Risk Assessment Guidelines

Thank you for your attention!

