



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Personal Music Players Stakeholders' Conference

27 January 2009, Brussels

The European Commission (DG Health and Consumers and DG Enterprise and Industry) is organising a one-day Stakeholders' Conference on Personal Music Players on 27 January 2009 in Brussels.

The decision to organise the conference is based on an Opinion by the EU Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) on "*Potential health risks of exposure to noise from personal music players and mobile phones including a music playing function*", which was released on 13 October 2008. Scientists confirmed that there is cause for concern since 5-10% of personal music player listeners risk permanent hearing loss if they listen to a personal music player for more than one hour per day each week at high volume settings for a period of at least 5 years.

The aim of the European Commission in organising this conference is to examine the way forward, together with the EU Member States, scientists, industry, consumer organisations, Members of the European Parliament and other key stakeholders. The discussions will cover precautions that users can take, technical solutions that industry could apply to minimise hearing damage and whether there is a need for further regulation or revision of existing safety standards to protect consumers.

The first session of the conference will focus on the EU regulatory framework and the SCENIHR Opinion and will include a keynote speech by EU Commissioner for Consumer Affairs, Mrs Meglena Kuneva.

The second session of the conference will focus on positions from stakeholders and key actors, involving industry, consumer organisations and the European Parliament.

The third session will be devoted to developing a common understanding and to discussing the way forward, providing the opportunity for an open debate between participants.

Since space at the venue is limited, registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis, while respecting a certain balance between the various stakeholder communities. We kindly request that you confirm your participation by e-mail to the following address: sanco-unit-b3@ec.europa.eu, providing your name, function and contact details.

For further information, please contact:

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