

The European Commission intends to organise a technical hearing on behalf of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) on the safety evaluation of **"Parabens in cosmetic products"**, in order to follow-up the SCCP opinions on the subject (SCCP/0873/05, http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/docs/sccp_o_019.pdf; SCCP/1017/06, http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/docs/sccp_o_074.pdf). This hearing is intended to collect additional safety-relevant scientific evidence on (iso)propyl and (iso)butyl paraben.

The hearing will be held on 23 October 2007 in Brussels. Stakeholders with an interest in this topic are invited to submit their registration at the latest by 05 October 2007 to the following address (Sanco-Sc6-Secretariat@ec.europa.eu)

When submitting their application, potential participants should provide full professional details, specify the particular topic they wish to address in the hearing and submit a 1-2 page technical justification for their request.

Participation to the hearing will be decided by the Commission services and the SCCP on the basis of the following criteria:

- Based on the technical justification provided, the contribution is expected to provide new scientific evidence with a relevance to the risk assessment of the substances indicated or to give significant clarification on the data previously submitted to the SCCP;
- Interested participants have clearly identified the subject matter they would wish to contribute to and have provided sufficient technical justification;
- Interested participants are scientists or technical experts with an appropriate expertise in the field who are able to appropriately present and understand the scientific arguments.

Participants in the public hearing are expected to:

- Provide a concise (15-20 min) presentation of their contribution;
- Be prepared to answer questions posed by members of the SCCP;
- Submit to the SCCP their presentations and/or additional/comprehensive scientific information in printed or electronic form;
- Limit their presentations to scientific matters related to the subject (for example, provide additional scientific evidence, discuss interpretation of data or clarify data), but under no circumstances to engage in public relations or lobbying activities.

All registered participants will be informed at least two weeks before the hearing and will be given details about the time and venue for the public hearing.

DG Health and Consumer Protection will publish the final programme of the hearing together with the participants' names.

The members of the Scientific Committees shall not take any decisions during the hearing.

In conformity with the generally applicable obligation to respect confidentiality in all the aspects of the work of the Scientific Committees, Members, associated members and external experts shall exercise care during hearings to avoid giving information to competitors or other interested parties regarding specific products where this information is not public.

For additional information and guidance on hearings as part of the recently introduced stakeholder dialogue procedure, please consult the following document

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/documents/stakeholder_procedure_en.pdf