



NOVEMBER 2008

## // CED RESOLUTION

# IMPLEMENTATION OF SCCP OPINION ON TOOTH WHITENING PRODUCTS

---



In its May 2007 Resolution on tooth whitening products, the CED supported the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) of 2005 that tooth whitening products containing between 0.1 and 6% hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) are not safe to be sold over the counter and used freely, but are safe to be used after the approval and under the supervision of a dentist. The CED welcomed the European Commission's decision to uphold the SCCP opinion and its request to the SCCP to provide a final opinion on the matter.

In its opinion of December 2007, the SCCP specified that the risk associated with the use of tooth whitening products containing between 0.1 and 6% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> grows with increasing concentration and frequency of application and that it was not possible to anticipate the exposure if the products were to be freely and directly available to the consumer. Potential risks could be reduced if products were used only after clinical examination and if exposure in terms of frequency and duration of application was limited. Tooth whitening products containing more than 6% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> were not considered safe for use by the consumer.

Against this background, the CED:

- Recognizes the need for regulation of availability of tooth whitening products at EU level on the basis of the December 2007 SCCP opinion;
- Feels that the aim of such regulation should be to protect consumers from potential harmful effects of excessive exposure to tooth whitening products and to enable distribution of the full range of tooth whitening products, under the responsibility of a dentist, as justified by scientific evidence;
- Expresses concern about continued delay in implementing the SCCP opinion and calls on all actors involved to ensure that a solution is found as soon as possible in the interest of patient safety;
- Supports the intention of the European Commission to amend the Cosmetics Directive in line with the final SCCP opinion and
- Encourages the European Commission to schedule a vote to amend the Cosmetics Directive at the earliest opportunity and urges Member States to contribute to a positive outcome.

**Adopted unanimously by the CED General Meeting on 28 November 2008.**