

Press Release

European Sunlight Association Fights Back Hype over Tanning Beds

Brussels, 30 July 2009 (ESA) — The European Sunlight Association (ESA) condemns the hype related to the recent categorization of tanning beds as a “Group 1” carcinogen.

“The European Sunlight Association will not stand by and allow to unfairly malign our products and the thousands of small business owners who are our members, by grossly exaggerating the risks associated with tanning beds,” said ESA’s chairwoman, Christina Lorenz.

“Because tanning beds produce the same UV light as the sun, OVEREXPOSURE and abuse of our products - just like OVEREXPOSURE to sunlight - is associated with an increased risk for some types of skin cancer. Other items in this category are red wine and salted fish. Scientific studies suggest that drinking red wine or other alcoholic beverages carries a greater cancer risk than tanning. It is completely irresponsible to compare indoor tanning with mustard gas or arsenic as so many media reports have done”, stated Lorenz and continued: “Media reports comparing indoor tanning to toxins like mustard gas, cigarettes, and arsenic are outrageously overhyped. The same “group 1” category includes red wine, salted fish, and regular sunlight. These sensational headlines are as absurd as saying ‘A glass of merlot is as deadly as mustard gas’. UV light from a tanning bed is the same as UV light from the sunshine, which has had the “group 1” classification since 1992. So it’s no surprise that tanning beds have now been put in this category as it has long been understood that OVEREXPOSURE to UV light, whether from the sunshine or a tanning bed, is associated with increased risk of some forms of cancer. This is why the European Sunlight Association has always emphasized the importance of moderation.

The European Sunlight Association (ESA) represents thousands of indoor tanning manufacturers, distributors, facility owners and members from other support industries throughout Europe. ESA promotes a responsible message about moderate tanning and sunburn prevention.

Media Contact

Frank Harbusch
Secretary General

European Sunlight Association a.s.b.l. (ESA)
51, Chaussée de Charleroi
1471 Loupoigne
Belgium

Tel: +32-67-670114
Fax: +32-67-648048
Email: [europeansunlight@skynet.be](mailto: europeansunlight@skynet.be)
Web: www.europeansunlight.eu