

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002932/25
to the Commission
Tomislav Sokol (PPE)
(16 July 2025)**

Subject: Ensuring consumer protection and regulatory oversight of sunbeds in the EU internal market

Over 150 000 cases of melanoma are diagnosed annually in Europe, with strong scientific evidence linking sunbed use, particularly before the age of 35, to increased cancer risk. The WHO classified sunbeds as Group 1 carcinogens, alongside tobacco and asbestos.

Yet the withdrawal of the recommendation on UV exposure from sunbeds under the Commission's 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan' ⁽¹⁾ raises concerns about consumer protection. The 2014 Low Voltage Directive ⁽²⁾ does not address key areas such as advertising, health warnings or inspections.

While sunbeds remain widely promoted, national rules on sunbed use by minors vary. There is no harmonised EU framework for operator training, safety inspections or UV emission limits.

Considering the known health risks for consumers, particularly young people:

1. To what extent does the Commission consider that existing EU provisions adequately support its responsibilities under Articles 114, 168 and 169 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union in safeguarding consumer health and safety?
2. How does the Commission plan to ensure strong consumer protection and safety in the provision and marketing of sunbed services in the EU internal market?
3. Would the Commission consider introducing or reviewing specific internal market measures to improve consumer protection such as by addressing misleading advertising, ensuring visible health warnings and promoting regular inspections of tanning devices?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(3 November 2025)**

In Europe's Beating Cancer Plan ⁽¹⁾, the Commission indicated that it would 'explore measures on exposure to ultraviolet radiation, including from sunbeds...'.

The Commission concluded that more information on the effectiveness of preventive and mitigation measures is needed to have a comprehensive understanding of how policy recommendations could lead to a better protection of EU citizens from health risks associated with the use of sunbeds, beyond the protection already provided under the directive 2014/35/EU ⁽²⁾ (the Low Voltage Directive — LVD) ⁽³⁾.

All sunbeds used for tanning purposes must comply with the health and safety requirements set in the LVD, which covers cancer-related risks. The LVD covered the conditions relating to the placing on the market of sunbeds.

The harmonised standard on sunbeds under the LVD (EN 60335-2-27:2013/AC:2021-11 ⁽⁴⁾) may be used by manufacturers to prove compliance with the LVD requirements. National authorities are responsible for transposing, implementing and enforcing the LVD.

As for the safety aspects and risks relating to the use of sunbeds which are not covered by the LVD, the General Product Safety Regulation (EU) 2023/988 ⁽⁵⁾ applies. Furthermore, the general consumer protection rules on misleading and comparative advertising apply.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.

² Directive 2014/35/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making available on the market of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/35/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union/cancer-plan-europe_en.

⁽²⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/35/oj>.

⁽³⁾ See also reply to Parliamentary Question E-0101259/2025: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001259-ASW_EN.html.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/scheer/docs/sunbeds_co44_en.pdf.

⁽⁵⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/988/oj>.

The Commission will consider further measures if there is compelling evidence that such measures would result in a better protection of EU citizens from health risks associated with the use of sunbeds and provided that such measures respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care (Article 168(7) TFEU).
