



Press Release

The Scientific Advisory Board of the Dutch Health Council Backs Moderate Sunbed Use

Veldhoven, 11th December 2009 (SRF) – According to a statement by the Scientific Advisory Board of the Dutch Health Council, there is nothing wrong with tanning outdoors or in the solarium...as long as it's in moderation. As the scientific panel continues in its letter to the Dutch Health Council which deals with health and consumer protection, on no account can it be guaranteed that the use of solariums is accompanied by a higher risk of skin cancer. Furthermore, the Health Council expresses major reservations concerning the decision recently taken by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to raise the category of UV-radiation and solariums to cancer risk category one. The supporting scientific documents provide no basis for this. In the statement the scientists belonging to the high-ranking panel also explain the positive effects of sufficiently supplying the human body with vitamin D, which, stimulated by UV radiation, is produced over 90 percent in the skin. "It is a very positive sign that a renowned institution such as the Dutch Health Council exclusively sticks to objective, provable criteria when evaluating tanning and draws well balanced conclusions from this", comments Ad Brand from the Sunlight Research Forum (SRF) with regards to the statement by the Scientific Advisory Board.

The Dutch Health Council is the Netherland's most important scientific panel in the domain of health. Its studies, statements, and recommendations often form the basis for legislative proposals.

The Sunlight Research Forum (SRF) is a non-profit organisation with its headquarters in the Netherlands. Its aim is to make the latest medical and scientific findings concerning the effects of moderate UV radiation on humans open to the general public.

Notes:

- The Dutch Health Council's statement: "Advisory letter UV radiation and sunbeds" can be downloaded from the SRF website www.sunlightresearchforum.eu.
- Further information about the Dutch Health Council is available at www.gezondheidsraad.nl/en

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