I.-BACKGROUND

- The relationship between high levels of exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, mainly from the sun, and the risk of all three major forms of skin cancer is well established (50-90% of skin cancers are due to UV radiation).
- UV radiation was estimated to cause 60,000 deaths worldwide in 2000, 48,000 of those were melanomas and 12,000 basal and squamous skin carcinomas.
- Lifetime accumulation of exposure to sunlight in some occupational groups increases the risk of squamous skin cancer.
- There are currently no recommendations for "safe doses" of UV radiation for human skin.
- The use of sunlamps and tanning beds has been classified as carcinogenic to humans, but is not yet widely regulated.
- Exposure to indoor tanning devices before age 30 increases the risk of developing skin cancer by 75%.

II.-KEY ISSUES TO BE RAISED:

Analysing the example and extrapolating to other environmental and occupational risks:

- How could the lessons learnt from UV radiation be applied to the prevention of other carcinogens?
- Social mobilization and communication: what is working to change people’s behaviour? What is not working?
- Are the current control measures available and attractive to the public and vulnerable groups?
- What regulatory measures have been used to reduce individual exposure? Did they work? (e.g. age, cost, etc.).
- Innovative approaches to strengthen primary prevention of environmental and occupational cancers.
- What are the major gaps? Identification of barriers to primary prevention.