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MEPs call for stronger EU action against cancer

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MEPs call for stronger EU action against cancer to:

– Reduce inequalities in all aspects of cancer prevention and care

Put patients first, in a comprehensive and coordinated strategy, to beat cancer

– Build more resilient health systems, in light of the current **COVID-19** health crisis

Parliament's Special Committee on the Fight against Cancer adopted its final proposals on how to strengthen the EU's role in the fight against cancer.

In the report adopted on Thursday by 29 votes in favour, one against and 4 abstentions, MEPs said that the implementation of the European Plan to fight cancer is a first step towards a true European Health Union.

The global strategy addressing cancer, at EU level, should serve as a model for other non-communicable diseases, MEPs add.

Key recommendations presented by the Beating Cancer Task Force (**BECA**) include facilitating access to cross-border healthcare and clinical trials for cancer patients,

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extending the use of joint procurement procedures, managing cancer drug shortages, ensuring the "right not to be forgotten," as well as ensuring equal access to innovative cancer medicines and treatments.

Details on the main calls to action are available [here](#).

Impact of COVID-19 on cancer patients

The main lessons learned from the public consultation conducted by **BECA** on the impact of the **COVID-19** pandemic on cancer care in the **EU** are also incorporated into the report.

They include calls for **EU** prevention and management plans, as part of building more resilient national health systems, to prevent and address shortages of medicines, devices, products and personnel in times of health crisis, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Dating

BECA President **Bartosz Arłukowicz (EPP, PL)** said: "We cannot allow unequal access to diagnosis and treatment to persist.

A woman with breast cancer, in one country, should not have a 25% lower chance of surviving cancer than a woman with the same cancer, in another country.

If we can co-finance the construction of bridges, roads and museums, together, as a Union, then we can certainly start fighting the greatest killer of our time, cancer.

If we work together, if we pool our resources, we can really beat cancer!"

BECA speaker **Véronique Trillet-Lenoir (Renew Europe, FR)** said: "Our main lever of action is based on ambitious, multidisciplinary, independent, coordinated and adequately funded European research, which relies heavily on data sharing and artificial intelligence.

La prevención, la atención y la investigación, estarán a cargo de un **Centro Europeo del Conocimiento**, que constituye un “**Instituto Europeo del Cáncer**” virtual.

Los estados miembros de la UE podrían formalizar su compromiso con las prácticas de calidad, a través de una «**Carta europea de pacientes con cáncer**», un programa de intercambio de buenas prácticas y formación compartida que garantice la solidaridad y la cooperación sostenible».

Próximos pasos

Se espera que el pleno del Parlamento apruebe el informe a principios de 2022.

Los antecedentes

En junio de 2020, el pleno del **Parlamento Europeo** aprobó la creación del **Comité Especial para la Lucha contra el Cáncer (BECA)**, integrado por 34 miembros de pleno derecho.

El comité organizó un proceso de consulta sin precedentes, a través de una serie de audiencias públicas, con casi 90 expertos de alto nivel, que actualizaron los conocimientos a los miembros, sobre los últimos avances y conocimientos sobre el cáncer, y proporcionaron recomendaciones de políticas basadas en sus conocimientos y experiencia sobre el terreno.

Los miembros también intercambiaron puntos de vista con los parlamentos nacionales y con organizaciones y expertos internacionales.

El mandato del comité finaliza el 23 de diciembre de 2021.

Source: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/es/press-room/20211205IPR18808/meps-call-for-stronger-eu-action-against-cancer>

TRANSLATOR's NOTE: Among the carcinogens that determine the etiology of malignant neoplasms, **asbestos or asbestos** stands out for its special relevance, both in the workplace and in the environment, and with regard to the latter, we will have, similarly, **radon**.

The associative link between the two carcinogens is determined by our repeated recommendations that, when measuring the concentrations of **asbestos fibres** in the underground tunnels of **the metropolitan railway (for short, the 'metro')**, the radiation corresponding to a possible presence of **radon** should be measured simultaneously. , coming from the land that makes up the walls of a relatively confined area, such as the aforementioned tunnels of the "metro", with an increase in costs, which we can describe as moderate.

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