



EU Health Agenda



- Europe Against Cancer Programme
- European Cancer Code
<http://www.cancercode.org/code.htm>
- Pass Tobacco control laws
 - Advertising ban
 - Anti Smoking Campaign
- Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening

1. to help co-operation between Member States



- to share and promote best practice in health across the European Union
- to learn from each other
- to look at successes in one part of the Union and to examine how this success can be replicated somewhere else

2. To analyze the impact that other policy areas may have on health:

- environment policy
- enterprise policy and its pharmaceutical legislation
- regional policy and the Union's structural fund which rather than to focus on traditional infrastructure project should include greater scope for investment in the health infrastructure because health is a vital component of economic success
- the internal market rules which apply to health services, etc.



"Europe Against Cancer Program"

The long term objective was to decrease by 15% the number of cancer deaths by the year 2000 in Europe.

Objective was not reached – BUT

Between 1987 and 2000 the annual cancer mortality decreased by 10 %



Open method of coordination



- demographic ageing
- accessibility of care for all
- high quality of care
- long term financial sustainability of care

The high level Group on health services and medical care



- centre of reference
- patient safety
- cross border healthcare purchasing and provisions
- health impact assessment and health systems
- health Technology assessment, etc.

MAKING CANCER PREVENTION A PRIORITY FOR EUROPE:



- **epidemiological surveillance**
- **screening**
- **prevention**
- **exchange of good practices**

European Cancer Registries network

- ▶ to improve the quality, comparability and availability of cancer incidence data
- ▶ to create a basis for monitoring cancer incidence and mortality in the European Union
- ▶ to provide regular information on the burden of cancer in Europe
- ▶ to promote the use of cancer registries in cancer control, health-care planning and research



Council recommendation on cancer screening:

- Pap smear screening for cervical cancer starting not before the age of 20 and not later than the age of 30
- mammography screening for breast cancer in women aged 50 to 69 in accordance with the European guidelines on quality assurance in mammography
- faecal occult blood screening for colorectal cancer in men and women aged 50 to 74



Many aspects of general health can be improved, and certain cancer avoided, if you adopt a healthier lifestyle

1. Do not smoke
2. Avoid obesity
3. Undertake some brisk, physical activity every day
4. Increase your daily intake and variety of vegetables and fruits. Limit your intake of foods containing fats from animal sources





5. If you drink alcohol – moderate your consumption

6. Avoid excessive sun exposure

7. Apply strictly regulations aimed at preventing any exposure to known cancer causing substances.



There are public health programs that could prevent cancer developing or increase the probability that a cancer may be cured

8. In cervical screening

9. Breast screening

10. Colorectal screening

11 Vaccination programmes against Hepatitis B



THE FIGHT AGAINST TOBACCO



The Commission will spend **72 million** euros until 2008 on promoting tobacco-free lifestyles, primarily among adolescents (15-18) and young adults (18-30)

EU Tobacco Control



But all these initiatives do not represent a guarantee for all Europeans to profit from the best cancer programmes.

For example, while screening programmes can help reduce deaths from certain cancers, in some Member States these programmes are poorly implemented or non-existent despite the Council recommendation.



SO WHAT CAN WE DO?



- **Cancer is the second biggest cause of mortality in Europe and accounts for four out of ten deaths in the 35-65 age group**
- **In 2004, 2 millions of new cancer cases have been diagnosed, and 1.2 million deaths have been monitored in the 25 EU member states**
- **Every day, 5214 Europeans are diagnosed with cancer and 3185 die from their disease**
- **Cancer will affect 1 in every 3 Europeans and will kill 1 in 4**
- **The number of Europeans with cancer will increase dramatically over the next 20 years due to the ageing of the European population**

**GOVERNMENTS needs to take
urgent actions**



**1. INFORMATION-
COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS**

**2. CANCER SCREENING/
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS**



**1. INFORMATION - COMMUNICATION
CAMPAIGNS**



- the basic prevention measures to be applied
- the extent of inequalities in health status and incidence of diseases across EU
- as about the significant discrepancies in cancer outcomes both within and between different EU member States

This is the duty of each national Health Authority to develop a campaign to inform its citizens. Europe may help on developing a broad campaign, but in any case it will have to be adapted/tailored by individual governments for national implementation.



2.CANCER SCREENING/IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL RECOMENDATIONS



The last 4 points of the code against cancer are dealing with the screening of cervical, breast and colorectal cancer, as well as with the vaccination against Hepatitis B.

**We cannot accept that
thousand of EU citizens are
dying every year because
their treatment is below
standard or is given too late**



We have to work very hard at national level to ensure that governments will put in place the Council recommendations.



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- Investments
 - 25% of the difference in the mortality rates
 - The New Member states can have access to EU Structural Funds

Healthcare professionals, citizens and patients groups should campaign for mobilizing EU funds to set up cancer screening programmes and to improve cancer treatment services in their country. National authorities have to be lobbied in order to make sure that they will develop an explicit national framework for health improvement, without which they will never be able to be selected for any EU funding for health



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE VOICE OF EU CITIZENS IS WITH YOU



In 2005 a group of MEP has decided to create an initiative called **MAC**

MAC Members



MAC Members



The European Parliament MAC – Statement



- Encourage Member States to adopt/improve national Cancer Plans
- Firmly tackle the socio-economic and geographic divide leading to inequalities in cancer control
- Invest in Cancer Prevention in Member States through implementing the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening
- Vigorously promote cancer awareness in the general public through the existing *European Code Against Cancer*, especially in new Member States
- Oppose discrimination because of age, race, gender and domicile
- Set up EU Cancer Task Force

MAC Statement



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MEPs Against Cancer Statement

Members of the European Parliament from all parties have joined forces to promote action on cancer as a priority in the European Union. MEPs also learn to harness the health policies of the European Member States towards improving cancer control for Europe's citizens.

We are aware that there are considerable inequalities in health status and cancer survival rates within Member States and across the European Union. Commissioner Kyriakos recently pointed out that the male life expectancy in Estonia and Latvia is a full 12 years shorter than in Sweden. Lung cancer kills twice as many people in Hungary as in Finland.


We are extremely concerned that, according to warnings from WHO, there will be a 'cancer epidemic' as the disease rate increases dramatically in Europe's ageing population.


MAC Recommendations

We, the undersigned, call upon all EU Health Ministers to:

1. Urgently develop and where existing improve national cancer plans setting priorities and effectively allocating resources for improving cancer control and research across the European Union.
2. Firmly tackle the socio-economic and geographic divide, which leads to inequalities in cancer control.
3. Make high quality and up to date prevention, treatment and care attainable for all cancer patients in each European Member State.
4. Vigorously promote cancer awareness in the general public through the existing *Europe against Cancer Code* making a special effort in new Member States.
5. Invest in cancer prevention in Member States through implementing the *Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening* of December 2003 and setting up national high quality screening programmes.
6. Oppose discrimination because of age, race, gender and domicile in respect of the best cancer treatments.
7. Set up a *Cancer Task Force* at European level to exchange best practice and to highlight once again that tackling cancer is a priority and sending a strong political signal that immediate and concerted action is needed now.

Signed at


MAC
1st MAC Conference
"Making Cancer a Priority"
in the European Parliament
on 22 March 2006


The MAC Secretariat is provided by the European Cancer Patient Coalition representing the views of cancer patients in the European healthcare debate. Under the motto: Nothing about Us, without Us! ECPC was launched in 2003 to become the joint voice of patients.

Signature of MAC Statement



THANK YOU

