

Dear Members of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action,

You can find our latest newsletter below, which includes recent activities of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action members in different countries and provides updates on relevant cancer policy developments from across Europe and beyond.

***If you would like to invite colleagues, former members of parliament and relevant policymakers in your country to join our pan-national collaboration for cancer policy action, please do not hesitate to contact us and take the initiative to share your support in fighting cancer in Europe.***

#### [IN THE NEWS](#)

#### **Roadmap Launched at European Parliament Urges EU to Complete, Refresh and Expand its Cancer Plan**





ECO welcomed new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) during its first plenary in Strasbourg in July to reinforce its commitment to keeping cancer a top political priority in Europe. The [initiative, hosted by Hungarian MEP András Kulja](#), aims to accelerate the implementation of the European Plan to Combat Cancer and engage MEPs and other EU officials to ensure the continuity of the [‘Time to Accelerate’ campaign, building on the momentum of the European Manifesto Against Cancer](#).

An ECO delegation met with several members of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action, European Commissioners and key policymakers who pledged to work together over the next five years to improve cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, care and research in all EU Member States. A key point of discussion was the European Cancer Roadmap to 2030, which outlines specific recommendations for future EU cancer policy.

The European Organisation Against Cancer (ECO) is working with MEPs to draft a joint parliamentary resolution on cancer. In addition, [ECO and the European Cancer Leagues Association are setting up an ‘intergroup’ on cancer to promote dialogue between EU representatives, cancer professionals, patients and experts](#).

If you are interested in working with us, please contact Riccardo Moschetti at [riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org](mailto:riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org)

**[New manifesto aims to address disastrous impact of armed conflict on cancer care](#)**



### **[The European Cancer Organisation's Emergencies and Crisis Network \(ECO\)](#)**

established in 2024 to help create more resilient healthcare systems capable of responding effectively to future crises [met on 2 August to discuss the latest Russian missile attack on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kiev](#). This network serves as a vital platform where cancer professionals and patient advocates can exchange ideas, learn from past emergencies and propose best practices - quickly.

During this emergency meeting, [a group of international cancer leaders presented a manifesto](#) highlighting the immediate course of action needed to address the harmful effects of armed conflict on cancer care, treatment and prevention. Increasingly, as wars around the world escalate, people with cancer face a growing set of urgent challenges in conflict-affected regions, suffering from the collateral damage of war on hospitals, on the healthcare supply chain, and from the massive displacement of patients that war creates. The manifesto on improving cancer care in conflict-affected populations contains a number of recommendations including, firstly, advocating and unequivocally demanding that



the Geneva Convention be fully respected - without permissive policies - in the protection of medical personnel, the prohibition of attacks against medical units and the safeguarding of the rights of sick people, including those diagnosed with cancer. Furthermore, great attention is given to promoting the inclusion of cancer and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the humanitarian sphere in UN policy agendas, and the creation of a working group through WHO, composed of key non-state actors, to define and support the implementation and monitoring of approaches to maintain cancer care in conflict-affected populations, including through research.

If you would like to be kept abreast of the activity on International Cancer Emergencies and Crises and discuss with healthcare professionals, policymakers and experts on the ground, please do not hesitate to contact Riccardo Moschetti at [riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org](mailto:riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org)

## Spanish government publishes new legal proposals on alcohol and minors

On Tuesday 20 August, Spanish Health Minister Mónica García submitted to the Council of Ministers an **innovative bill** to establish a comprehensive framework to protect minors' health and reduce alcohol consumption.

The new law would especially engage government departments in the areas of education, health, culture, sports, research, road safety, work and family life to spread wider information and raise awareness on alcohol consumption and its risks to health. More restrictive measures would also be implemented regarding exposure to and access to alcoholic beverages and limitations on advertising and commercial communication.

According to the World Health Organisation, alcohol is a toxic, psychoactive, and dependence-producing substance and has been classified as a **Group 1 carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer** and the risk of developing cancer increases substantially the more alcohol is consumed.

An important step towards the goal set by [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan of reducing harmful alcohol consumption](#) as alcohol-related harm is a major public health concern in the EU. In 2016, cancer was the leading cause of alcoholattributable deaths with a share of 29%, followed by liver cirrhosis (20%), cardiovascular diseases (19%) and injuries (18%).



Through National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action we believe that this type of initiative can be promoted and discussed among policymakers in order to facilitate the dissemination of best-practices in Europe and strengthen cooperation between states.

If you are interested in obtaining further information or in talking to some of our Spanish colleagues, we would be delighted to convene a meeting in this regard.

More information on the proposed legislation [here](#).