**Dear Minister [SURNAME],**

**Ahead of the next meeting of the Health Working Party of the Council of Ministers**

I am contacting you as a concerned citizen in respect to the position of the Government of [COUNTRY] during the concluding stages of landmark new EU recommendations on cancer screening being agreed.

It has been reported recently that a strong proposed text by the European Commission published in September[[1]](#footnote-1) has been highly diluted as a result of meetings of EU government representatives[[2]](#footnote-2). This has included rejection of recommendations provided by the EU’s Chief Scientific Advisors[[3]](#footnote-3) on matters such as screening age ranges for breast cancer, challenge to the Scientific Advisors recommendations about lung, prostate and gastric cancer screening, and even weakening of advice about providing psychological support for individuals diagnosed with cancer following participation in screening programmes.

Meetings of the Health Working Party of the EU Council of Ministers are believed to be ongoing, with an aim of finalising text for your personal approval at the EPSCO Council meeting on 9 December.

I am requesting your personal influence as a Health Minister to ensure Europe’s agenda on cancer screening and early detection be bold, ambitious and visionary. Key ambitions included in the September 2022 proposal published by the European Commission should be protected, based as they were upon carefully considered deliberations of the EU’s Scientific Advice Mechanism. The Recommendations should also be reviewed regularly in view of a fast developing field of science and policy.

I ask for your support on this matter. The future of early detection of cancer in [COUNTRY] and in Europe can be supported by EU recommendations on cancer screening that inspire us all to go further, faster. Your help in securing that will be most appreciated.

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_5562> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.europeancancer.org/screening> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://sapea.info/wp-content/uploads/cancer-screening-report.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)