

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.

We are delighted to inform you that today National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action represents more than 70 elected policymakers from 25 European countries (including Ukraine). You can find here the full list of our members:

<https://www.europeancancer.org/National-and-European-Parliamentarians-for-Cancer-Action>

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](#)

Eliminating HPV cancers in Europe: New HPV Policy Atlas presented in Bulgaria and in Poland



On 18 September, ECO presented in the [Bulgarian parliament](#) the [2nd edition of the HPV Prevention Policy Atlas](#), a joint initiative of the European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights (EPF) and the European Cancer Organisation. The Atlas reveals a very uneven picture across the European region. The human papillomavirus virus (HPV) causes about 90,000 cancers a year in Europe. These are all preventable with adequate vaccination, screening and prevention campaigns.

Since 2020, the HPV Prevention Policy Atlas has scored 48 European governments on their approach to HPV prevention. Its second edition finds that geographical disparities across Europe remain and that a visible East-West divide affects the region.

Mike Morrissey, CEO of the European Cancer Organisation, said: *“We now have a fantastic opportunity to eliminate all the cancers caused by HPV from the whole of Europe, including Bulgaria and Poland. But there are huge inequalities in vaccination and screening programmes across the region. That’s why we need to take action to support those countries that are falling behind so their citizens can benefit from the level of protection that is already available in the best-performing countries.”*

ECO pays particular thanks to **Petar Vitanov, Rosita Vasileva Pandova-Yovkova and Alexander Simidchiev** Member of the Bulgarian Parliament and new members of the [National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action](#) for helping make the event possible.

We just recently came back from our first national event in **Warsaw on 28 September, where our Chief Executive Mike Morrissey and a delegation of the European Cancer Organisation, discussed with the Polish undersecretary of state at the Ministry of Health Maciej Miłkowski the recent approval of the National HPV Vaccination plan**



ECO will be visiting other national capitals including Zagreb and Bucharest in 2023 as part of the campaign. **If you are interested in hosting and/or supporting us in visiting your country, please contact riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org**

If you would like to join the pan-European campaign to eliminate HPV cancers, you can join our HPV Action Network today. More details, including how to join, [here](#).

European Parliament votes for more stringent air pollution rules across the EU



On 13 September, the European Parliament voted in favour of an important new European law to align EU Air Quality Standards with WHO Guidelines. The vote comes following scrutiny of European Commission legal proposals on the topic, delivered as part of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The International Agency on Research of Cancer (IARC) declared air pollution as carcinogenic to humans in 2013, and the latest research shows link with a number of cancer types beyond lung cancer, including breast, colon, liver, stomach, and kidney cancer among others.

363 MEPs voted in favour, 226 against and 46 abstained on the vote which sets a stricter 2035 limit and target values for several pollutants including particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), NO₂ (nitrogen dioxide), SO₂ (sulphur dioxide) and O₃ (ozone). The new rules would ensure air quality in the EU is not harmful to human health, natural ecosystems and biodiversity and would align EU rules with [the most recent World Health Organization \(WHO\) Air Quality Guidelines](#).

The text underlines the need to increase the number of air quality sampling points. In urban areas, there should be at least one monitoring supersite per two million inhabitants that

represents the exposure of the general urban population (the Commission proposed one per 10 million).

MEPs want to harmonise currently-fragmented and unintuitive air quality indices across the EU. Indices must be comparable, clear and publicly available, with hourly updates so citizens can protect themselves during high levels of air pollution (and before obligatory alert thresholds are reached).

Now the Parliament will commence formal discussions with EU Member State Government representatives and the European Commission to agree a final legal text in an inter-institutional negotiation process known as ‘trilogue’.

More information available [here](#).

Joint ECO/ERS call for cleaner air to prevent cancer [here](#).

If you are particularly concerned about environmental issues related to public health, and there is currently a legislative proposal in your country that could be promoted, please do not hesitate to contact us riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org

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EU Commissioner for
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Ahead of the European Parliament elections in June 2024, the European Cancer Organisation is **developing a manifesto to outline the next major strategic steps for European cancer policy**. To be launched at the European Cancer Summit, 15-16 November, the charter for cancer control improvement will feature key consensus recommendations for all countries in areas such as cancer prevention, early detection, quality of cancer care, survivorship and follow-up care and research.

Before publication, ECO will be in contact with all members of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action to ensure your voice can be heard ahead of finalization. In the meantime, **if you would like to raise our attention to some relevant topics for inclusion, you can contact us at anytime: riccardo.moschetti@europeancancer.org**