

### Important EU consultations on funding and vaccination now open: have your say!



Two important consultations have recently been opened by the European Commission on strengthened cooperation against **vaccine preventable diseases** and **EU funds in the area of investment, and research & innovation (including funding for public health priorities)**.

The consultation on strengthening cooperation against vaccine preventable disease asks for input on three areas: tackling vaccine hesitancy; sustainable vaccine policies in the EU; and the promotion of stakeholder dialogue. The responses of this consultation will inform the proposal to be launched by the European Commission later in 2018.

You can respond by following the link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/open-public-consultation-strengthened-cooperation-against-vaccine-preventable-diseases\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/open-public-consultation-strengthened-cooperation-against-vaccine-preventable-diseases_en)  
Deadline: 15 March 2018.

The consultation on provides stakeholders with **the only opportunity to help decide the future of health-related EU funding**. The responses to the survey will be used to shape the Commission's proposal for the new long-term EU budget. Therefore, it is important to submit your responses highlighting the need for continuing action in cancer control.

Please follow the link to respond: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-funds-area-investment-research-innovation-smes-and-single-market\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-eu-funds-area-investment-research-innovation-smes-and-single-market_en)  
Deadline: 8 March 2018.

Please contact [ecl@europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:ecl@europeancancerleagues.org) with any queries.

### MEPs against Cancer

IMPROVING OUTCOMES, DRIVING EFFICIENCY IN CANCER CARE:  
HOW DO WE LEARN FROM BEST PRACTICE?

30 January 2018

In collaboration with the All.Can Initiative, the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) and the European Cancer Organisation (ECCO)



The MAC Group met on 30th January for a seated lunch with various stakeholders and policymakers with the following aims:

- **Present** concrete examples of programmes/initiatives that have improved the efficiency of cancer care by focusing on what matters most to patients, and discuss what lessons can be learnt from them
- **Introduce** the work of All.Can as well as ECCO looking at improving access to innovation and efficiency and discuss implications for policymakers at EU and national level
- **Discuss** how the MAC and European institutions can work with Member States to help amplify efforts seen at national level, and help share best practice



Pictures of the event [here](#)

### How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?

Hosted by: Deirdre Clune MEP, EPP (IE)  
European Parliament (Room A5E-3)  
5 March 2018, 15h00-17h00

Organised by the European Cancer Organisation (ECCO) and ECL



The event will welcome expert speakers to elaborate on:

- The essential requirements for quality cancer care;
- Patient perspectives on quality cancer care;
- Tools to measure quality cancer care; and
- European approaches to achieve quality cancer care.

Registration mandatory [here](#).

### Spring Meeting in Bern



Access to Medicines Task Force

#### For ECL members: Access to Medicines Task Force Spring Meeting

The ECL AZM TF will meet on **19 March 2018** in **Bern**, Switzerland. The draft agenda has been sent out and the registration is open!

Interested in attending and have not received the email? If so, please send an email to [Anna@europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna@europeancancerleagues.org)

### No EU taxation rules for electronic cigarettes for the moment

In a report of the Commission to the Council, released on 12 January 2018, the Commission proposed **no EU taxation rules for electronic cigarettes for the moment**, considering that it was a quickly evolving market.

According to the Commission, we quote: "E-cigarettes are currently not covered by the tobacco excise duty directive. Member States may apply a national tax to e-cigarettes as they find fit under their own rules. At present nine Member States tax e-cigarettes under national rules."

"The study found that the information available on e-cigarettes was limited and it was consequently difficult to draw conclusions on how the market will evolve in the future. Moreover, opinions on possible health effects of e-cigarettes and, consequently, the appropriate tax treatment largely diverge. Therefore, from a health perspective a cautious approach should be adopted towards a potential harmonized taxation of e-cigarettes.

The hypothetical excise duty loss caused by substitution between traditional cigarettes and novel products including e-cigarettes is estimated to be less than 2.5 % (EUR 2 billion) of the total revenue of excise duty on cigarettes. A positive tax rate might contribute approximately to EUR 0.3 – 0.5 billion to the budgets of Member States, although enforcement difficulties are expected. These figures have to be taken with great caution because the full effects of the rules of the Tobacco Products Directive, which entered into force on 20 May 2016, particularly on smaller producers, are still unknown."

The Commission supports the recommendation of the external study to adopt a **multi-phased approach**, starting with collecting accurate data to fill the information gap. Compiling a robust information or evidence base is an essential component of better policy making. The data currently available does not provide sufficient evidence to support a proposal for a harmonized approach for taxation of e-cigarettes.

The Commission expects that more data will become available as a result of the obligations under article 20 of the Tobacco Products Directive and has decided therefore to revisit the issue in the context of an evaluation (REFIT) and the next regular report on tobacco taxation due in 2019 pursuant to the obligation laid down in article 19 of Directive 2011/64/EU. By that time, it is expected that the effects of the requirements of the Tobacco Products Directive on the e-cigarette market will also be known better."

[https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/sites/taxation/files/report\\_excise\\_duty\\_manufactured\\_tobacco\\_12012018\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/sites/taxation/files/report_excise_duty_manufactured_tobacco_12012018_en.pdf)

### Special Award for FECEC



FECEC won the third edition of the *Somos Pacientes Awards* (#somospacientes17) (*We Are Patients*) for their 'After cancer' digital portal project ([www.despresdelcancer.cat](http://www.despresdelcancer.cat)) in the 'Patients – Better web development' category.

The awards ceremony took place on December 13th during the 'We are Patients' Symposium held in Madrid. The decision on this edition's winners was taken by a jury comprised of individuals of the highest scientific and professional prestige.

These awards recognize the effort, dedication, talent and imagination that patient associations make throughout the year to provide assistance, services and solutions to their users and society in general.

The 'We Are Patients' awards are granted by the Farmaindustria Foundation through the Somos Pacientes online community of associations of patients and people with disabilities. Farmaindustria is the National Trade Association of the Spanish-based pharmaceutical industry and comprises a large majority of pharmaceutical laboratories, which represent almost all the prescription medicines sales in Spain.

This edition's finalists and winners are just an example of the many initiatives and activities of value and interest launched by the associations of patients and people with disabilities over the last year, of which more than a hundred have been candidates for these awards.

### Cancer Focus NI and Liz in Her Majesty's Honour List!

Congratulations to **Liz Atkinson**, Head of Care Services at Cancer Focus NI, on receiving an MBE in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List! A richly deserved award for a career spent nursing people affected by cancer.



Two times a year (at The Queen's Official Birthday and on New Year's Day), lists of those set to receive honours from The Queen are published by the Government. The most common order which those being honoured are admitted to is the Order of the British Empire, instituted by George V in 1917 as a way of marking civilian achievement.

**MBE** – Member of the Order of the British Empire – is given for an outstanding achievement or service to the community and allows the holder to put the letters MBE after their name.

We're all so proud of you, Liz!

### ECL UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAC Meeting:** EADV Campaign "Skin Cancer: Safe Work Under The Sun"  
March 27, 14:00-16:00, European Parliament, Brussels

**Access To Medicines:** March 19, Bern, Switzerland

**PSWG workshop:** April 12-13, Bucharest, Romania

Thanks for reading!

ECL

[www.europeancancerleagues.org](http://www.europeancancerleagues.org)



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

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### New Intern for the ECL Team!

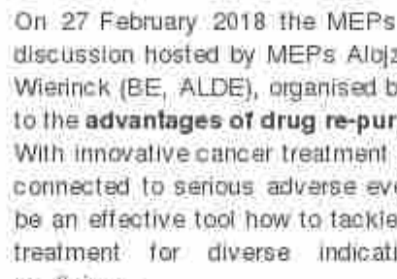
In February ECL hired via the European Solidarity Corps a new intern **Asnate Kaupe**, from Latvia. During the next 5 months Asnate will be responsible for the ECL Youth Ambassador programme and will provide assistance in monitoring, updating ECL communication channels and event management.

Asnate is an International Relations graduate at the University of Latvia and has an experience in Office Administration as well as event planning, project management in NGOs like AIESEC and ESN (Erasmus Student Network). In relation to the European institutions, she did an internship as a Liaison Officer during Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2015.



Welcome to Asnate!

### WASABY has begun!



On the 19 February 2018, the WASABY project was launched during the first meeting of the Steering Committee at the National Cancer Institute of Italy, in Milan.

WASABY is a 3 year pilot project funded by the EU Health Programme, involving 5 partners from across Europe. The project is led by the National Cancer Institute in Italy, with **ECL leading the work package on dissemination**. During the first two years, WASABY will produce **breast cancer risk maps** identifying areas at higher risk in Europe using specific geographic information systems and ad hoc models of spatial analysis. In the third year, the project will promote online primary prevention courses to increase awareness on breast cancer risk to girls from 12 to 19 years of age.

The project website will soon be online at [www.wasaby.site.it](http://www.wasaby.site.it), so check back soon for more information.

### MEPs against Cancer

#### MEPs Against Cancer Meeting: Re-Innovate cancer treatment

On 27 February 2018 the MEPs Against Cancer Group held a discussion hosted by MEPs Alojz Peterle (SLO, EPP) and Liwje Wierinck (BE, ALDE), organised by the Anticancer Fund, devoted to the **advantages of drug re-purposing**.

With innovative cancer treatment being very expensive and often connected to serious adverse events, the drug re-purposing can be an effective tool how to tackle these issues as it can provide treatment for diverse indications with already approved medicines.

However, drug re-purposing is still facing financial and regulatory hurdles such as the lack of interest from the pharmaceutical industry, lack of accessible data, low investment in non-commercial research etc.

The question remains, how do we encourage the industry to invest more in research on existing medicines and marketing of variations? Conversation between different stakeholders should be sustained in order to develop solutions on the European Union and national level.

For more information on MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) events, please visit: <https://www.europeancancerleagues.org/meeps-against-cancer-mac-events/>



### How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?

Hosted by: Deirdre Clune MEP, EPP (IE)  
**European Parliament (Room A5E-3)**  
**6 March 2018, 15h00-17h00**

Organised by the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) and ECL

The event will welcome expert speakers to elaborate on:

- The essential requirements for quality cancer care;
- Patient perspectives on quality cancer care;
- Tools to measure quality cancer care; and
- European approaches to achieve quality cancer care.

Registration are now closed

#### With the focus on quality - Quality Cancer Care Week (QCCW) 5-11 March 2018.

This year, 5-11 of March is dedicated to the quality of cancer care: what quality cancer care consists of; how to measure it; and how to implement it.

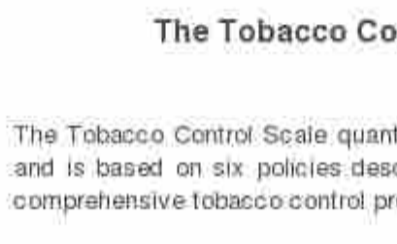
During the week, the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO) seeks to bring attention to the importance and stimulate the debate about the quality of cancer care. Each day of the week focuses on a certain aspect of the quality cancer care – including multidisciplinary, inequalities, rehabilitation, and survivorship, education and training and others.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March the QCCW will move to the European Parliament which will connect experts, policy-makers and civil society to discuss "How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?". The meeting will be hosted by MEP Deirdre Clune (IE, EPP) and supported by the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group, ECL and ECCO.

Use **#qualitycancercare** or **#QCCW2018** to keep updated during the week or to promote the topic on your social media channels.



### Spring Meeting in Bern



**For ECL members: Access to Medicines Task Force Spring Meeting**  
The ECL A2M TF will meet on **19 March 2018** in Bern, Switzerland. The draft agenda has been sent out and the registration is open!

Interested in attending and have not received the email? If so, please send an email to [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org)

### The Tobacco Control Scale has been scientifically validated.

The Tobacco Control Scale quantifies the implementation of tobacco control policies at country level, and is based on six policies described by the World Bank, which they say should be prioritised in a comprehensive tobacco control programme. [www.tobaccocontrolscale.org](http://www.tobaccocontrolscale.org)

According to an article published in the scientific journal, Tobacco Control, the **TCS is an effective tool**. Researchers used the TCS in EU27 in 2007 and the prevalence of tobacco and quit ratios data from the Eurobarometer survey (2006 (n=27 585) and 2014 (n=26 793)). We analysed the relationship between the TCS scores and smoking prevalence and quit ratios and their relative changes (between 2006 and 2014) by means of scatter plots and multiple linear regression models.

In EU27, countries with higher scores in the TCS, which indicates higher tobacco control efforts, have lower prevalence of smokers, higher quit ratios and higher relative decreases in their prevalence rates of smokers over the last decade. The correlation between TCS scores and smoking prevalence and between the relative changes in smoking prevalence was negative. A positive correlation was observed between TCS scores and quit ratios. The percentage of smoking prevalence explained by all TCS components was 28.9%.

The full article is accessible at <http://tobaccocontrol.bmj.com/content/early/2018/02/21/tobaccocontrol-2017-054119?rss=1&hpid=PostID=5206ad22e288bb3352d38b50b9ad01e2>

The next edition of the Tobacco Control Scale will be presented in Berlin in February 2020 at the 8<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Tobacco or Health (ECTO).

### EU News

#### #EU4Health Campaign



Group of public health NGOs have developed a **#EU4Health Campaign** briefing which seeks to unite arguments for the EU institutions to step up their activities in the **health sector post 2020**.

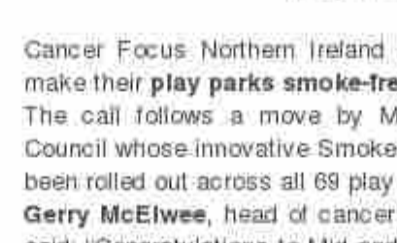
Alzheimer Europe, Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), EuroHealthNet, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECP), European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations (EFA), European Patients' Forum (EPF), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), European Heart Network (EHN), European Alcohol Policy Alliance (Eurocare) and EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe have distributed the briefing to their members and encourage everyone to sign the [campaign petition](#).

The campaign vision is: **an EU where all people are as healthy as they can be throughout their lives**. That means an EU where they can expect equitable support from actions in all policies and programmes to ensure the healthiest possible lives, and which promotes well-being for all at all ages, to achieve complete physical, mental and social well-being; where they can be born, grow, live, work and age in sustainable healthy environments; and where everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality.

Interested in knowing more about the campaign? Please write an email to: [eu4health\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:eu4health(at)gmail.com)

Would you like to receive the briefing document? Please contact: [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org)

#### European Health Parliament – Outcomes-based healthcare systems panel

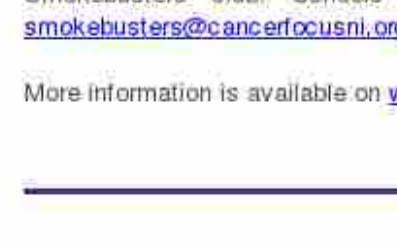


On 20 February 2018 during the European Health Parliament (EHP) plenary the Outcomes-based Healthcare Systems (OBHS) Committee organised a panel where experts including **Christina Akerman, President of ICHOM**, **MEP Mariann Harkin** and **Salomé Azevedo from Patient Innovation** discussed the necessity to shift toward more patient-centred health care, improving the quality of care starting by greater concentration on patient-reported outcomes (PROs) and real-world evidence and the necessary incentives for EU Member States to shape their healthcare systems based on patient outcomes.

The debate was moderated by Anna Prokupkova from ECL and Thomas Gelin from Porter Novelli.

For more information about the panel and/or the work of the OBHS Committee, please contact [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeancancerleagues.org).

#### ECIBC, the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer



[ECIBC Country Profiles](#) in national languages are now available online.

#### Cancer Focus NI welcomes smoke-free playgrounds

Cancer Focus Northern Ireland (NI) has called on all councils to make their **play parks smoke-free zones**.

The call follows a move by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council whose Innovative Smoke-Free Play Park Campaign has been rolled out across all 69 play parks across the borough.

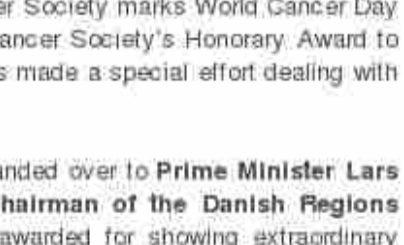
**Gerry McElwee**, head of cancer prevention, Cancer Focus NI, said: "Congratulations to Mid and East Antrim for being the first council to launch this very important campaign which is aimed at protecting children and young people from exposure to smoking. We fully support this extension of smoke-free areas. "Smoking is the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death. Sadly, one in every two smokers die early because of their habit.

"We know that children who regularly see adults smoke are more likely to try smoking. We firmly believe that this move could help protect children's health and reduce their perception that smoking is normal behaviour."

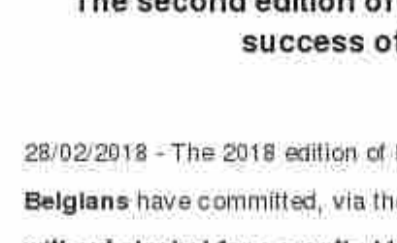
Mr McElwee added: "Most smokers started while they are still children. It is vital that we can take every step possible to try and protect yet another generation from this deadly product."

Cancer Focus NI works with hundreds of schools across Northern Ireland encouraging children not to smoke through its [Smokebusters club](mailto:Smokebusters@CancerFocusNI.org). Schools can sign up by emailing [Smokebusters@CancerFocusNI.org](mailto:Smokebusters@CancerFocusNI.org) or calling 028 9066 3281.

More information is available on [www.cancerfocusni.org](http://www.cancerfocusni.org)



#### The Danish Cancer Society presents Honorary Award on World Cancer Day



Each year the Danish Cancer Society marks World Cancer Day by presenting the Danish Cancer Society's Honorary Award to a person or a group who has made a special effort dealing with cancer patients.

This year the award was handed over to **Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen** and **Chairman of the Danish Regions Politikal leadership** as they decided to define cancer as an acute disease in 2007 and introduced the fast track cancer diagnostic and treatment system to ensure rapid treatment for cancer patients. The award was handed over by **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mary** at a ceremony at The Royal Theatre, Skuespilhuset, in Copenhagen.

#### Fondation against Cancer Belgium: The second edition of Mineral Tour confirms the success of the campaign

28/02/2018 - The 2018 edition of Mineral Tour came to an end! **104,579**

**Belgians** have committed, via the website of the campaign, to do **without alcohol for a month**. Many more were also participating without registering.

"Some participated last year to follow fashion or trend. The number of participants reached over the bar of 100,000, this year, which proves that the concept has still many sunny days ahead," the organizers said. "The persistent interest and attention for non-alcoholic alternatives in bars and restaurants is a reflection of a changing society".



### ECL UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAC Meeting: EADV Campaign "Skin Cancer: Safe Work Under The Sun"**  
March 27, 14:00-16:00, European Parliament, Brussels

**Access To Medicines:** March 19, Bern, Switzerland

**PSWG workshop:** April 12-13, Bucharest, Romania

**Use of Biomarkers in Primary and Secondary Prevention of Skin Cancer & ECL Sun Safety workshop:** 16-17 April 2018, Brussels

Thanks for reading!

ECL

[www.europeancancerleagues.org](http://www.europeancancerleagues.org)



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## MEPs against Cancer

## "Skin Cancer: Safe Work under the Sun"

On 27 March 2018 MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group met with speakers from different organisations to discuss the issue of occupational skin cancer. The meeting was hosted by MEP Marita Ulvskog (SE, S&D) and co-hosted by MEPs Jens Gieseke (DE, EPP) and Alojz Peterle (SI EPP).

There are 20 million outdoor workers in the European Union. They are daily exposed to UV radiation and thus have a high risk of developing skin cancer. Speakers presented different perspectives on occupational skin cancer – economic burden on health care systems and the European Union as a whole, workers perspective on occupational diseases, challenge of researchers to collect and analyse data of occupational diseases and especially skin cancer, etc.

**Roisin Foster**, CEO of Cancer Focus Northern Ireland, presented skin cancer awareness campaign developed by her society and the Department of Health of NI. The campaign objectives were to increase public awareness of sun exposure and improve early detection. As one of the main focus groups were set outdoor workers and employers and the campaign proved to be successful resulting in increase of diagnosed skin cancer during the 1<sup>st</sup> stage.

There was a common consensus that **health literacy among workers themselves should be improved** and at the same time involving other stakeholders – employers, work unions and governments – is key. In the ever changing work environment improvements and revisions should also be done in the EU legislation.



## How can we improve the quality of care provided to cancer patients in Europe?

As part of the **Quality Cancer Care Week (QCCW, 5 - 11 March)** on 6 March 2018 the European Cancer Organisation (ECCO) and ECL held an MEPs Against Cancer meeting hosted by MEP Dairíde Clune (EPP, IE) where experts discussed the importance of bringing quality in cancer care.

Speakers introduced already existing cancer care quality measurements existing in different EU Member States. The event concluded that there is a **clear lack of political will** both at the EU and national level to strive for higher uptake of quality patient outcomes measurements (PROMs). Moreover, it was emphasised that a more holistic approach and focus on **multidisciplinary team** of healthcare professionals is needed to shift the paradigm toward patient-centric care.



QUALITY CANCER CARE WEEK  
5-11 March 2018  
Calling for quality cancer care  
throughout the patient journey  
europeanccancer.org qccw.org

## Call for ECL Youth Ambassadors



Founded in 2015, the ECL Youth Ambassadors for the European Code against Cancer brings together highly motivated young people from more than 20 different countries across Europe.

**Youth Ambassadors are students and young professionals** drawn from many disciplines including medicine, public health, law, and political sciences. They all share a deep conviction that cancer can be defeated by following the 12 messages of the European Code against Cancer. Through different events and initiatives, **Youth Ambassadors make creative and enterprising actions to promote cancer prevention.**

The Youth Ambassadors group meets every year for an annual workshop to share experiences and develop common actions. The Youth Ambassadors for the ECAC group receives secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a Brussels based non profit organisation who represents national cancer leagues across Europe.

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## WCTOH 2018 calls upon governments to develop a plan by 2021 for phasing out the sale of tobacco products

2500 participants attended the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health in Cape Town in March 2018. Those participants called upon governments to develop a plan by 2021 for phasing out the sale of tobacco products. The full WCTOH declarations are available at [http://www.wctoh.org/site/assets/files/2283/17th\\_wctoh\\_declarations.pdf](http://www.wctoh.org/site/assets/files/2283/17th_wctoh_declarations.pdf)

The sixth edition of the **Tobacco Atlas**, published by the American Cancer Society, was also launched at the **2018 World Conference on Tobacco or Health** in South Africa, on a continent that is a principal target of the tobacco industry's vigorous efforts to recruit new users. The book is published as a companion to the [TobaccoAtlas.org](http://www.tobaccoatlas.org) website, which includes country fact sheets, considerable new content, frequent updates and comprehensive data, among other components.

The next WCTOH will be held in **March 2021, in Dublin**, in collaboration with one of the ECL Members, the Irish Cancer Society.



## WCTOH from an inside eye

**Gera Nagelhout**, who won the 1st Award of the 7th ECTOH Young Professionals 2017, attended WCTOH and shared her enthusiastic experience on her [blog](#).



## Spring Meeting in Bern

## ACCESSIBLE MEDICINES FOR ALL CANCER PATIENTS



On 19 March 2018 the ECL A2M Task Force met at the Swiss Cancer Society to discuss the key issues in access coming in 2018-19. The Task Force Members were joined by Yannis Natsis from the European Public Health Alliance, Dr. Thomas Cerny from Cancer Research Switzerland and Patrick Durisch from the Public Eye. It looks like we will be very busy the rest of the year. Stay tuned for upcoming Task Force initiatives [here!](#)

For ECL members: Minutes and presentations will be distributed shortly.

## La Ligue, France: Celebrating its 100th Anniversary!

On March 14, the French Cancer League organised a full day of activities to celebrate its 100th Anniversary.

There were concerts, film festival, conferences and much more in a friendly atmosphere under the sign of solidarity with cancer patients and their families.

Happy Anniversary!



## European Collaboration Needed!

## Oncommunities project - european funding application to EIT Health consortium

Dr. Josep maria Borrás (Institut Català d'Oncologia) and Dr. Cristian Ochoa (Barcelona University) are looking for **European cancer patient associations, coalitions or federations** to help them to scale the **Oncommunities project** to their countries.

Find below more explanations:

We need collaboration to an **European funding application to EIT Health consortium**

**We are: University of Barcelona and Catalanian Institute of Oncology research group**

**What we need:** European cancer patient associations, coalitions or federations to help us to scale **Oncommunities project** to their countries.

**Benefits for collaboration:** - Access to free innovative health education and online psychosocial cancer care

- Budget to develop parts of this project in your country (40.000-50.000 euros).

**Please contact with Dr. Cristian Ochoa [cocha@ic.oncologia.net](mailto:cocha@ic.oncologia.net) before 3rd of April if you are interested.**

**We only need little details of your institution (name, contact details and responsible) to be a partner.**

**General description:**

Oncommunities is the result of a joint effort of patients and healthcare professionals to co-construct healthy experiences in cancer. Oncommunities is a multilevel, stepped and integrated educational and psychosocial e-health platform, which guarantees a proper screening, monitoring and support in health education, treatment adherence, emotional and psychosocial care in cancer. Cancer survivors and health professionals interact using well-established and stepped online interventions according to their psychosocial and health education needs in each relevant cancer process-transition. Diagnose, onset and end of the primary oncological treatments, return-to-work, relapses, no curative treatment options and end of life are main significant transitions in cancer where a proper educational and psychosocial support intervention is needed and has a well-established cost-utility. Oncommunities promotes healthy digital connections to improve health and emotional self-awareness and trigger social support and empowerment in cancer in order to enhance quality of life, psychosocial adaptation and treatment adherence.

**Schematic Project description:**

**Title:** Oncommunities: Online Cancer Therapeutic Communities

**Focus:** Innovative and cost-effectiveness improving access to health education, psychosocial screening-monitoring-support and evidence-based psycho-oncological treatments.

**Main aim:** Implement an online stepped care integrated system with: screening, monitoring, education and psychosocial interventions in an online therapeutic community using an e-health platform.

Health education and Psychosocial services:

1. Facilitating private access (social net) to high quality and participated cancer related information (with multidisciplinary oncological team).

2. Sustained psychosocial screening, monitoring and emotional support.

3. Easy access to online evidence-based psycho-oncological treatment (multi-videoconference meetings)

The main characteristics of these communities can be summarized in four big points:

1) Private-access to social nets for both patients and health-professionals

2) Psychosocial, proactive and high responsive online screening and monitoring in overall oncological process with special focus on crisis and difficult transitions (diagnosis; treatment complications, returning to daily life, relapses, no treatment opportunities).

3) Online stepped psychosocial care from more preventive interventions to more psychotherapeutic ones.

4) The online community uses asynchronous communication (like Facebook) for basic psychosocial support, and synchronous communication (videoconference) for online psychooncological treatments.

## ECL Opinion on European HTA Cooperation

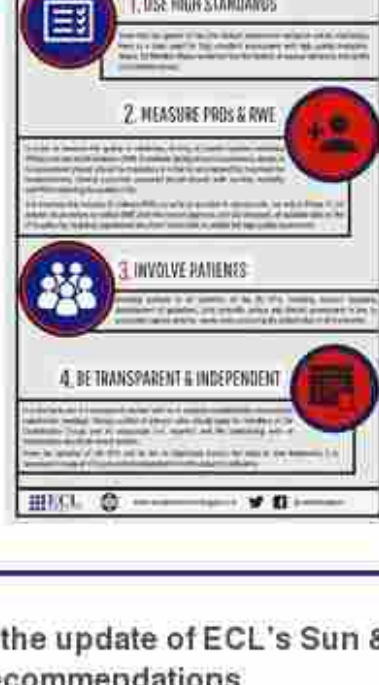


On 4 April 2018 ECL published a statement supporting the Commission's legislative proposal on the European Cooperation on the **Health Technology Assessment (HTA)**.

ECL further called for:

- (i) adoption of the highest possible standards;
- (ii) greater inclusion of patient reported outcomes and real world evidence;
- (iii) significant patient involvement in the HTA process; and
- (iv) transparency and independence of the HTA Coordination Group and scientific subgroups.

Please read the whole statement [here](#).



## Cancer Leagues agree the update of ECL's Sun & UV Safety Recommendations

Representatives from 8 cancer leagues were present, alongside more than 20 scientific experts and stakeholders, at a workshop in Brussels on **17 April** to revise ECL's sun and UV safety recommendations. The existing recommendations have been in force since 2008, thus were due a timely update taking into account the latest scientific evidence and experience of cancer leagues in the field.

Euroskin Secretary General **Dr. Rüdiger Greinert** opened the proceedings by proving an update on the scientific evidence on sun and UV safety. Dr. Greinert emphasised that **the beneficial effects of sunbed use such as the generation of vitamin D are outweighed by the adverse effects**. Skin cancer prevention expert from ECL member league the Belgian Foundation against Cancer, **Ms Brigitte Boonen**, also presented highlighting the legal perspectives on regulating sunbed use. Presentations were followed by an open exchange of experiences from the national perspective among workshop participants; and an in-depth discussion of what could be done at the country or European Union level to better regulate sunbed use.

The workshop, which took place following the **9th International workshop of EUROSkin**, followed two rounds of online consultation to identify the areas for improvement in the 2008 recommendations, and to rank the messages for their priority. In total, 25 responses were received, offering valuable insight about the current practice of cancer leagues, and helpful advice for the formulation of the revised recommendations.

Following extensive facilitate discussion of the draft recommendations during the workshop, consensus was achieved amongst the participants, many of whom had contributed to the online consultation. The recommendations shall now be sent for final approval to ECL's sun and UV safety contacts before being published on the ECL website by the European Week Against Cancer.

We would like to say **thank you** to everyone involved in the update of recommendations and of course remind you to **take care in the sun** as we head towards summer.



## Patient Support Working Group Meeting in Romania



On 12-13 April 2018 the P-SWG participants met in Bucharest, Romania to discuss several issues including patient empowerment, cancer rehabilitation, survivorship and return to work etc.

**Marie Mesnil**, PhD from the University of Reims joined the group to explain more access to private loan insurance in France and Belgium.

The group visited Oncology Institute in Bucharest and talked to local healthcare professional and patient representatives about the state of healthcare in Romania.



## European Health Parliament: Policy Recommendations launched



On 24 April 2018, 50 young professionals met at the European Social and Economic Committee (EESC) in Brussels to launch policy recommendations for the European Commission and EU Member States in areas of:

- 1) Outcomes-base Health Care,
- 2) Vaccines
- 3) Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR),
- 4) Healthcare Workforce Planning and
- 5) AI & Precision Medicines.

For more information about the project and the policy recommendations, please contact Anna Prokupkova, ECL Policy & Project Officer and Vice-Chair of the Outcomes-base Health Care Committee via email - [Anna\(at\)europeanoncologyleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europeanoncologyleagues.org).



## The need for a renewed EU Tobacco Tax Directive

**40 finance, customs and health officials, tobacco control experts, NGOs** met in Sofia on 25 and 26 April 2018 to ensure in-depth discussions on the WHO illicit tobacco trade protocol, traceability systems and tobacco taxation. On 26 April 2018, the focus was on the EU Tobacco Tax Directive and its impact in the WHO Euro region. The roundtable was organised by Smoke Free Partnership. SFP presented its four priorities on the revision of the Council Directive 2011/84/EU regarding Excises Duties for Tobacco Products:

### 1. Set an objective of 30% reduction in the prevalence of current tobacco use in people aged 15 years and over by 2025

This objective is already an EU commitment and tax policy is an important lever to ensure that it is achieved. The Directive is required to ensure both the proper functioning of the internal market and, at the same time, a high level of health protection. Including the 30% reduction target in the prevalence of current tobacco use in people aged 15 years and over by 2025 in the Directive would establish a clear criterion against which the success of the Directive should be assessed. This commitment also been taken by the EU and its member states as part of the Sustainable Development goals, the global Non-Communicable Diseases process, and by adopting decisions at the Conference of the parties for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

### 2. Achieve upwards convergence of prices across Member States

This could be done by approximating the levels of minimum excise duties (MED) for each tobacco product towards a common high denominator across the EU, as a way to achieve a high level of health protection and the proper functioning of the internal market. Achieving upwards price convergence will:

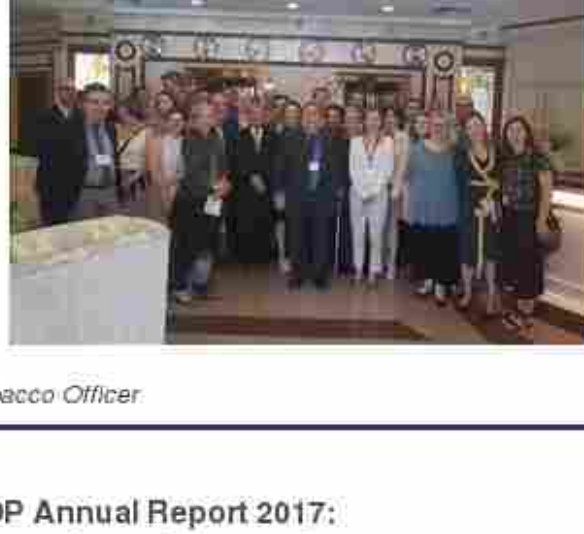
- respond to the specific call of six EU Member States as part of the March 2016 Council conclusions;
- reduce the glaring inequalities in the level of health protection afforded by fiscal policies across the EU;
- reduce the incentives for cross-border tax evasion.

### 3. Align excise duties for roll-your-own and make-your-own tobacco with those of cigarettes

The tax and resulting price differences between cigarettes and roll-your-own tobacco undermines the health benefits of high excise duties on cigarettes by incentivising smokers that would have reduced or quit due to tax / price increases to switch to hand-rolled tobacco products and other lightly taxed tobacco products.

### 4. Introduce a specific definition and tax category for raw tobacco and relevant intermediate products, so that they are included in the excise system and covered by the control system (EMCS).

It is expected that discussions on the renewed Tobacco Tax Directive will start in 2019



Luk Joossens, ECL Tobacco Officer

## TABACSTOP Annual Report 2017:

### Tabacstop surfs on the wave of new technologies



The proliferation of smartphones and the development of new mobile technologies are revolutionizing the way we communicate.

Tabacstop, the Belgian affiliate of the **Foundation against Cancer**, has always been attentive to these developments and is adapting its services to meet the needs of the entire population.

Figures from the 2017 Tabacstop annual report show that the website, the Facebook page and the Tabacstop app are experiencing real growth. This growth is visible in the North as in the South of the country, but is a little more marked in Flanders.

**322,594** unique visitors surfed the sites [www.tabacstop.be](http://www.tabacstop.be) and [www.tabakstop.be](http://www.tabakstop.be) in 2017. This is an increase of **15%** compared to 2016.

The Tabacstop Facebook pages were also very successful in 2017, with 6,107 additional subscribers. At the end of 2017, the French and Dutch-speaking pages had a total of **10,470 subscribers** (compared with 4,631 at the end of 2016). The number of subscribers has thus more than doubled in one year (+ 226%).

Given the new standards in the field of computer security and given the significant potential offered by applications in the support of smokers to stop smoking, Tabacstop will propose this year a **brand new application**. It is in test phase now and will be officially launched in September.

[www.tabacstop.be](http://www.tabacstop.be)

## Center-right MEPs to call for doubling of cancer research funds

4/24/18

The European People's Party group in the European Parliament wants the EU to double its spending on cancer research by 2024 in an effort to significantly reduce the number of people dying from the disease.

The next EU research program should focus in particular on **childhood cancer**, where many pharmaceutical companies don't find a profitable market, according to a [manifesto](#) to be presented Wednesday. The research budget for childhood cancers should be multiplied 10 times by 2024, the group will say.

The ambitious EPP demands, which include **12 asks to reduce cancer deaths**, will be presented at a press conference by the group's chairman **Manfred Weber**, together with German MEP **Peter Liese**, French MEP **Françoise Gosselée** and Slovenian MEP **Alojz Peterle**, himself a cancer survivor.

The group also wants the European Commission proposal on health technology assessment to be approved before the Parliament elections in May next year, stating EU-level assessments of new treatments would speed up the availability of drugs. The European Medicines Agency and national HTA bodies should cooperate better to focus investment on drugs that have a real benefit for patients, the group will say.

The group will also call on the Commission to come up with a plan and eventual legislative proposals to **improve e-health across the EU**, to support cancer patients having access to specialized therapies without having to travel.

## Non-Communicable Diseases: Launched of a Best Practice Portal

### Supporting the progress towards health promotion and non-communicable disease prevention in Europe

This portal is a "one-stop shop" for consulting good and best practices collected in actions co-funded under the Health Programmes and submitting practices for assessment.

All practices in the area of health promotion, disease prevention and management of non-communicable diseases are welcome. Those practices which will be selected as "best" against [the criteria](#) adopted by the Steering Group on Prevention and Promotion will also be published on this portal.

[Access to the portal here](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEPs Against Cancer:** 16 May 2018 - **Recognising Cancer Nursing in Europe**, hosted by MEP Alojz Peterle (SI, EPP) and MEP Marian Harkin (IE, ALDE) – [registration closed](#)

**Access to Medicines:** 23 May, WG1: Dysfunctional Elements meeting in Brussels (*restricted to ECL members*)

**European Week Against Cancer 25-31 May 2018!**

**MEPs Against Cancer:** 20 June 2018, 10:00-12:00, **Skin Cancer Registries in Europe: From Knowledge to Action**, hosted by MEP Charles Tannock (UK, ECR) – Register [here](#)

**MEPs Against Cancer:** 26 June 2018, 16:00-18:00, **Early Diagnosis & Cancer of Unknown Primary**, hosted by MEP Theresa Griffin (UK, S&D) and MEP Christel Schaldemose (DK, S&D) – Register [here](#)

**ECCO Summit:** 7-9 September, Vienna, Austria  
<https://www.ecco-org.eu/ECCO2018Summit>

**ECL Annual Meetings:** 13-16 November 2018, Berlin, hosted by the German Cancer Society. *Restricted to ECL members*

Thanks for reading!

ECL

[www.europeanoncologyleagues.org](http://www.europeanoncologyleagues.org)



*This newsletter is the result of activities that have received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's Health Programme (2014-2020). The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the EU institutions.*



## Farewells & Welcomes

After 12 years of dedicated work with ECL, Ghislaine Gerbier will take on new challenges starting on 1 July 2018. She enjoyed working and collaborating with all her European colleagues and will stay in touch with some of them.

Farewell Ghislaine and best wishes for the future!



We have the pleasure to announce that Elisabeth Dupont will join the ECL team as of 1 June 2018, as Operations Coordinator.

Elisabeth previously worked at the International Diabetes Federation ([IDF Europe](#)) and has been active in the cancer field for the past 15 years as an administrative and project officer. In addition to offer overall administrative support, she was coordinating pediatric oncology, cancer registration and palliative care projects in LMICs, working with organisations such as the [INCTR](#), [AFCRN](#), [AMCC](#) and [Center for Global Health](#) of the US NCI. At ECL, she will be in charge of administrative and financial matters and will provide operational support to the team.

A warm welcome to Elisabeth!

## TOBACCO

### World No Tobacco Day 31 May 2018

31 May mark the World No Tobacco Day to highlight the health and other risks associated with tobacco use, and to advocate for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.



million deaths per year globally ([WHO 2015](#)). In the event of #WNTD2018, cancer leagues call for enhanced tobacco control! Read more [here](#).

## 36 countries have ratified the WHO FCTC Illicit Trade Protocol

In May 2018, 36 countries and the EU had ratified the WHO [FCTC Illicit Trade Protocol](#) (ITP). 40 countries are needed for the entry into force of the Protocol. A first Meeting of the Parties will be held in Geneva from 8 to 10 October 2018, if 40 Parties ratify before 2 July 2018. In the coming month, four more ratifying countries are needed for the entry into force. India, Nigeria, UK, Norway, Kenya, Qatar and Mauritius have said that they would ratify the illicit trade protocol very soon. Nine EU Member States have already ratified the Protocol. ECL Tobacco Control Officer, Luk Joossens, calls up the remaining 19 EU Member States to ratify this new treaty as quickly as possible and by preference before 2 July 2018 to combat the illicit tobacco trade at European and global level.



The objective of the Protocol is the elimination of all forms of illicit trade in tobacco products. “Illicit trade” in tobacco products in this context means any practice or conduct related to producing, shipping, receiving, having possession of, distributing, selling or buying tobacco products which is prohibited by law.

In order to prevent this illegal trade, the Protocol aims to secure the supply chain of tobacco products through a series of government measures. One of the core measures of the Protocol is a global tracking and tracing regime. The purpose of a tracking and tracing system is to assist Parties in determining the origin of tobacco products, the point of diversion if applicable, and to monitor and control the movement of tobacco products and their legal status. The standards for an EU traceability tobacco system have been published last month and the EU system should be operational in May 2019. During the coming years, the establishment of tracking and tracing systems will become a major task for governments around the world, not only in the EU. Recent data suggest that tobacco companies remain involved in smuggling. Tobacco industry operated systems are not an option under the rules of the WHO FCTC Illicit Trade Protocol. The tobacco industry is part of the problem, not the solution.



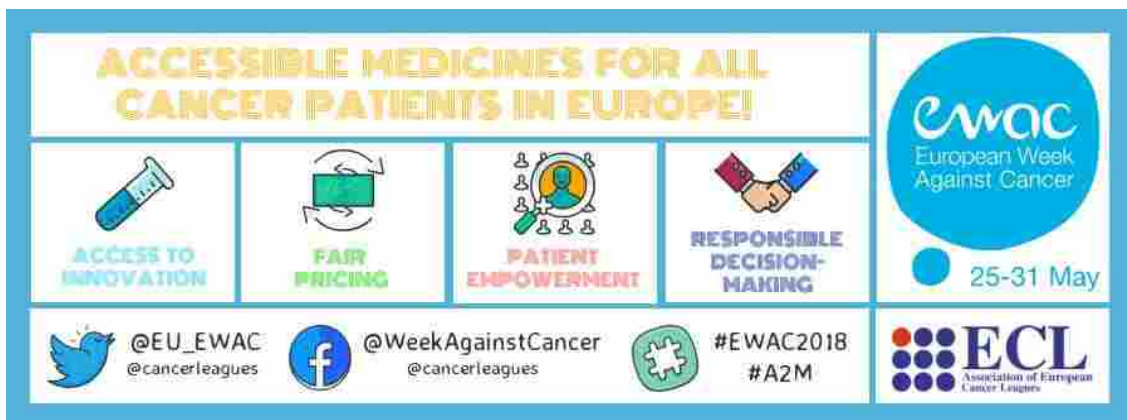
On 23 May 2018 the Dysfunctional Elements working group met in Brussels to discuss their research and related policy recommendations. Stay tuned for the soon coming White Paper outlining key challenges in access to medicines and suggested ways forward for national and European policy-makers.



## ECL Activities

### Access to Medicines Campaign

ECL Access to Medicines Task Force shared a series of social media quotes outlining the key issues that need to be address in order to achieve equal access to medicines for all cancer patients in Europe. If you are a medicines policy enthusiast and missed a part of the campaign, go to [@cancerleagues](https://twitter.com/cancerleagues), [@EU\\_EWAC](https://twitter.com/EU_EWAC) or search for #A2M and #EWAC2018 on Twitter or Facebook to find out more!



### Update of the ECL Sun Safety Recommendations

On 25 May ECL launched update on their Sun Safety Recommendations outlining the key steps you can take to protect yourself in the sun.

First published in 2008, the ECL Sun Safety Recommendations have been revised following an online consultation of cancer leagues and external partners, and were adopted in April 2018 during a dedicated technical workshop involving leading experts in the field.

The recommendations provide 9 key messages based on the latest available scientific evidence

Find out more about the recommendations and how to protect yourself in the sun [here](#).



**ECL Youth Ambassadors promote the European Code Against Cancer**

ECL Youth Ambassadors joined forces to remind us about importance of cancer prevention and the ECAC 12 ways to reduce your cancer risk. 11 Youth Ambassadors from Estonia, Cyprus, Denmark, Spain, Malta, Macedonia, Portugal, Austria, Greece and Bulgaria formed #cancercode to promote the ECAC both in their home countries and elsewhere in Europe.



Follow the ECAC on social media: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). We have another photo coming up!

**Happening elsewhere**

- **EU-OSHA** publishes [research on rehabilitation and return to work after cancer](#)
- [Article in the Parliament magazine](#) by MEPs Against Cancer President **Alojz Peterle**
- [Article in the EP magazine](#) by Commissioner for Health and Food Safety **Vytenis Andriukaitis**
- **ECPC** calls for [quality Patient Educational Material](#)
- **EuroHealth** launches [Policy Brief: Women and Ovarian cancer in the EU](#)
- **EC Joint Research Centre** publishes [report on Cancer burden indicators in Europe](#)
- **EASL** raises awareness about [liver cancer in a campaign on Twitter](#)



**Translink and Cancer Focus NI announce new charity partnership**

Translink has announced a new three year





a 'Healthier Life' campaign. The partnership, announced ahead of Bus and Train Week (4-10 June), will focus on encouraging people to put their best feet forward and adopt a healthier lifestyle to help lower their risk of cancer.

Together the new partners aim to raise awareness about cancer risks and highlight prevention messages, provide health checks, specialist support and raise vital funds. Money raised over the three years will go towards the Cancer Focus NI's cancer prevention Keeping Well service, which travels to the heart of local communities with health checks, advice and information. The charity will also provide regular health checks and information days for Translink employees and customers.

Read more about the partnership [here](#).



## Recognising Cancer Nursing in Europe

On Wednesday 16 May, the European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS) held an advocacy event at the European Parliament with the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) hosted by MEP Marian Harkin and the MAC President MEP Alojz Peterle to share the findings of the groundbreaking [Recognising European Cancer Nursing \(RECaN\)](#) project.



Representatives from the European Parliament, patient representatives, EONS Board and members attended. The events highlighted the value of specialist cancer nursing and we shared powerful data gathered in Phase 2 of the RECaN project from four European countries (Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, UK) where nursing is at different stages of development.

MEP Marian Harkin said: *"Cancer nurses play important roles in the multidisciplinary team that, through working together, improve patient-reported outcomes. I am pleased to host this event which aims to recognise this role and support cancer nurses' call for fully recompensed specialisations to be recognised across Europe."*

## European Cooperation in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) – Call for Action



The ECL Secretariat calls its members to advocate in their capitals for mandatory uptake of the European collaboration in the joint clinical assessment part of the HTA process. We encourage our members to send a position paper to their national policy-makers supporting the [Commission's legislative proposal](#) published on 31 January 2018. For inspiration, please see [ECL's position](#).

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact [Anna\(at\)europencancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europencancerleagues.org).

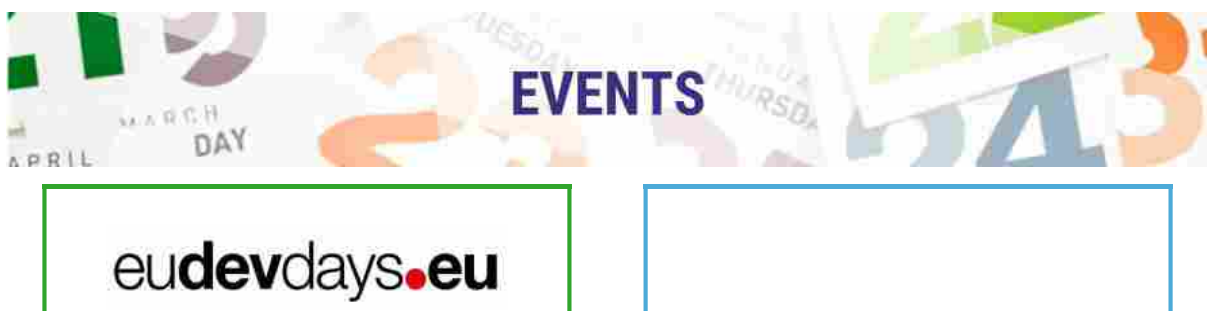
## Launch of the Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer (iPAAC)

iPAAC aims to build upon the outcomes of previous Joint Actions and its the general objective is to develop innovative approaches to advances in cancer control.



The innovation that will be covered consists of further development of cancer prevention, comprehensive approaches to the use of genomics in cancer control, cancer information and registries, improvements and challenges in cancer care, mapping of innovative cancer treatments and governance of integrated cancer control, including a new analysis of National Cancer Control Plans. The key focus of the iPAAC will be on implementation, reflected in the key deliverable "Roadmap on Implementation and Sustainability of Cancer Control Actions", which will support Member States in implementation of the recommendations. Thus, the primary target group of the iPAAC will be EU-level policymakers and decision makers at national, regional and local level.

Read more [here](#).





[ENSP-CNPT International Conference on Tobacco Control](#)  
14-16 June 2018. Madrid, Spain

[Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council \(EPSCO\)](#)  
21-22 June 2018. Luxembourg.



[ECCO Summit:](#)  
7-9 September. Vienna, Austria



[ESMO Congress](#)  
19-23 October 2018. Munich, Germany.



[ECPC Annual Congresses](#)  
8-10 June 2018. Brussels Belgium

**MEPs AGAINST CANCER**  
20 June 2018, 10:00-12:00.  
**"Skin Cancer Registries in Europe: From Knowledge to Action"**  
Hosted by MEP Charles Tannock (UK, ECR) – Register [here](#)

**MEPs AGAINST CANCER**  
26 June 2018, 16:00-18:00.  
**"Early Diagnosis & Cancer of Unknown Primary"**  
Hosted by MEP Theresa Griffin (UK, S&D) and MEP Christel Schaldemose (DK, S&D) – Register [here](#)



[European Health Forum Gastein](#)  
3-5 October 2018. Bad Hofgastein, Austria

**ECL Annual Meeting**  
13-16 November 2018. Berlin, Germany  
Hosted by the German Cancer Society.  
*Restricted to ECL members*



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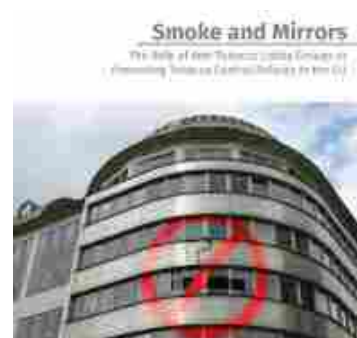
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## TOBACCO

### The Forrest reports about anti-tobacco lobby groups

Tobacco industry front organisation the Forrest has recognised the "good" work of 4 tobacco control organisations in the EU. [The Forrest report](#) identifies twenty-four different organisations operating in Brussels that are pushing for more pervasive anti-tobacco policies within the Brussels policy space. There are four key organisations in Brussels whose sole or core activities relate to lobbying for the introduction of more invasive anti-tobacco policies.



"The Big Four" is [Smoke Free Partnership \(SFP\)](#), [European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention \(ENSP\)](#), [European Public Health Alliance \(EPHA\)](#) and [Association of European Cancer Leagues \(ECL\)](#).

Above-mentioned four organisations have published a joint response:

*"We're delighted with the recognition from tobacco industry front-groups that health organisations are challenging them. It confirms that we're having the positive impact that our members - health researchers, health workers and patient groups from across Europe - expect us to deliver. Our organisations are each alliances of NGOs, encompassing hundreds of groups - not only the offices in Brussels - who also work directly with smokers, ex-smokers and patients, including providing cessation support. The tobacco lobby is railing against smoke free policies because they are working incredibly well and delivering results fast. We are proud to have contributed to helping [millions of people quit](#) - [1 million in France in just one year following the introduction of new policies](#). [Given that only 10% of smokers don't want to quit](#), it is painfully obvious that Forest does not really represent smokers' rights - but rather the wishes of their tobacco industry paymasters to keep people hooked. We "Big 4" are doing a better job of representing the rights of the vast majority of smokers who wish they had never started, as well as protecting the next generation from getting caught in the same trap."*

## ECL Access to Medicines Task Force meeting with Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis regarding HTA



On 5 June 2018 ECL Access to Medicines Task Force representatives met with the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Vytenis Andriukaitis, and his cabinet, together with the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) team members from the European Commission, to discuss priorities of cancer societies and patients in high quality HTA. ECL elaborated on point raised in [an extended position paper](#) and expressed the eagerness to help the Commission with finding support for this proposal in the EU Member States.

We thank our members who already got in touch with their ministries and we are looking forward to develop our common efforts after the summer break.

Are you an ECL member interested in the HTA file? Please contact [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna@europeancancerleagues.org) for more information and the ECL Advocacy toolkit.

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## CAR-T Cell Therapies: How much for survival?



On 20 June ECL published an article analysing the soon arriving treatment for leukaemia, the CAR T-cell therapies. The article looks at this promising treatment primarily from the perspective of pricing and access for patients in Europe. [Please read the article here!](#)

For follow-up questions and comments, please contact [Anna\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna@europeancancerleagues.org).

## meeting within the field of oncology

On Saturday 5 May the Espai Francesca Bonnemaison hosted the XIV edition of the Volunteerism Meeting within the field of Oncology organized every year by the Catalan Federation of Organisations Against Cancer (FECEC).



This annual meeting aims to promote the recognition and the connecting link between all volunteers working in this field in Catalonia. The day is also a token of appreciation to the effort and commitment of the volunteers to improve day by day the quality of life of people with cancer and their families. This year, the meeting emphasized the volunteers' cohesion and the feeling of belonging to the entity they collaborate with. The African proverb "If you want to travel fast, walk alone; if you want to travel far, walk together" synthesizes today's essence. For this reason, this edition has 'Cohesion: The Strength of Volunteerism' as a motto.

Read more about the meeting [here](#).

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## MediCare and Cancer Focus NI team up to keep staff well!



MediCare staff hopped on board the Cancer Focus Northern Ireland Keeping Well van for free health checks during Men's Health Week. Staff at the company's Montgomery Road office got blood pressure, pulse and blood sugars checked as part of the drive to encourage them to live healthier lifestyles. The Cancer Focus NI Keeping Well van is a mobile drop-in unit which brings health checks and cancer awareness sessions directly to workplaces, sports and community groups across Northern Ireland. The health checks available on board include blood pressure, pulse, blood sugar, carbon monoxide monitoring for smokers, BMI and a body composition analysis. Cancer Focus NI health promotion staff also offer one-to-one advice on improving health and provide information on the early signs and symptoms of various cancers.

Gerry McElwee, Head of Cancer Prevention at Cancer Focus NI, said: "Our Keeping Well vans help local people take control of their own health and lower their risk of cancer. The sessions we offer are interactive, positive and designed so that everyone taking part can see how they can adopt a healthier lifestyle, step by step. By offering these services on board a van that can travel to workplaces, such as MediCare pharmacies, means we are able to reach even more people in the heart of communities."

To find out more information about the Cancer Focus NI Keeping Well van visit [www.cancerfocusni.org](http://www.cancerfocusni.org).



## Enlargement of the MEPs Against Cancer group



MEPs Against Cancer welcome the newest member: MEP Francis Zammit Dimech from Malta, member of the EPP. We are looking forward to working with Mr. Zammit Dimech and enlarging MAC group to 38 parliamentarians committed to take action in the fight against cancer.

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## Importance of skin cancer registries: “Only what can be measured can be improved”

On 20 June MEP Charles Tannock hosted the MEPs Against Cancer meeting where the topic “Skin Cancer Registries in Europe: From Knowledge to Action” was discussed. Experts during their presentations stressed the importance of cancer data and brought attention to disparities in cancer registry systems within Europe.



Particularly concerning is that data about non-melanoma skin cancer is not reported or underreported in most of the cancer registries. Participants engaged in a discussion exploring various actions that could be done on the Member States or the European Union level to improve data collection for cancer registries. Read [meeting's report](#) for more information.

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## MEPs Against Cancer discuss early diagnosis & cancer of unknown primary



On 26 June MEPs Against Cancer group held a meeting discussing “Early Diagnosis & Cancer of Unknown Primary”. Meeting was hosted by MEP Theresa Griffin and MEP Christel Schaldemose.

Speakers shared their expertise about cancer of unknown primary, psychological challenges patients face when diagnosed with this particular type of cancer as well as the importance of early diagnosis for any

campaign in Denmark.

- Satu Lipponen from Cancer Society of Finland who presented iPAAC Joint Action's WP5 which is focused on prevention & early diagnosis.

During the open debate it was agreed that to improve early detection of cancer it is necessary not only to bring awareness to general public but also ensure that healthcare system is working efficient. Moreover, it is concluded that sharing of expertise and participation in European-wide joint actions would be an opportunity both in the area of cancer of unknown primary and cancer early detection.

Meetings press release is available [here](#).



## Priority actions for non-toxic environment in the EU

**HOW CAN  
EUROPE LEAD  
THE WAY TO  
A NON-TOXIC  
ENVIRONMENT?**

On 7 June [HEAL](#) publicly released its [vision for how Europe can lead the way to a non-toxic environment](#). The vision document sums up HEAL positions on the current problematic aspects in the use of harmful chemicals and suggests 12 priority actions to build an ambitious strategy to transition to a non-toxic environment, which truly reduces people's exposure to harmful chemicals.

Position is released now because the European Commission is legally committed to publish a non-toxic environment strategy by the end of 2018 (commitment under the 7th Environmental Action Programme), which is 6 months away and yet to date nothing has happened. The vision document is currently available in [English](#) and [French](#) and it is accompanied by a set of 12 infographics. A social media package including sample messages for Twitter and Facebook in English, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian and German is also available in this [google folder](#).

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## Health Ministers discuss HTA and the Future of Health in the EU

On 22 June 2018, the Health Council (EPSCO) meeting took place in Luxembourg. Health ministers discussed, among others, two subject of ECL's high interest: HTA and the Future of health in the EU.



The discussion on [Health Technology Assessment \(HTA\)](#) was very general and politicised, concentrating on the mandatory versus voluntary participation and uptake of the Joint Clinical Assessment (Article 8). Namely, Germany, France, Denmark, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and Poland called for enhanced voluntary cooperation. Some found, that the proposal of the Commission was a good base for further negotiation and specified there needs to be some more clarity and adjustments, these were: the Netherlands, Finland, Luxembourg, Latvia, Sweden, Malta, Hungary and Austria. Finally,



for more detailed discussion and welcomed the planned proactive approach of the Austrian presidency.

The discussion moved to the Future of Health in the EU, a question raised frequently since the publication of the [White Paper on the Future of Europe](#) by Commission President Jean Claude Juncker published in March 2017, in which some scenarios suggested 'doing less' on health. All countries agreed that cooperation in health has a future on the EU level, same for the existence of DG Sante.

For more information on these topics, please contact [Anna\(at\)europeanleague.org](mailto:Anna@europeanleague.org)

## Launch of the non-communicable diseases' Best Practice Portal



[The Best Practice Portal](#) is a "one-stop shop" for consulting good and best practices collected in actions co-funded under the Health Programmes and for submitting practices for assessment. All practices in the areas of health promotion, disease prevention and the management of non-communicable diseases are welcome. Those practices that are selected as "best" against the criteria adopted by the Steering Group on Prevention and Promotion will also be published on this portal.



**ECCO2018** | SAVE THE DATE  
EUROPEAN CANCER SUMMIT | 7-9 September 2018  
Vienna, Austria

**FROM SCIENCE  
TO REAL-LIFE  
ONCOLOGY**

European Cancer Organisation  
ecco2018.eu

[ECCO Summit:  
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**EUROPEAN  
HEALTH FORUM  
GASTEIN**

[European Health Forum Gastein](#)  
3-5 October 2018, Bad Hofgastein,  
Austria

**MEPs AGAINST CANCER**

25 September 2018, 16:00-18:00.

**"Celebrating 20 Years of Progress In Paediatric Haemato-Oncology in Europe"**

Hosted by MEP Elena Gentile (IT, S&D) and Co-hosted by MEP Alojz Peterle (SI, EPP) – Register [here](#)

**ESMO Congress**  
19-23 October 2018. Munich, Germany.

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## Farewells & Welcomes

ECL is giving farewells to intern Asnate Kaupe as she is finishing her internship and taking on new challenges starting from October. She was working as a part of ECL team since February helping with the coordination of ECL Youth Ambassador programme, as well as event and social media management.

Asnate thanks for all the support and mentorship from ECL team and wishes them all the best moving forward!



We are also giving a warm welcome to our next intern Meritxell Mallafré Larrosa who will join ECL on 1 October. As a sixth year medical student in the University of Barcelona, Meritxell is in pursuance of a multidisciplinary career on clinical oncology, global health advocacy, biomedical oncological research and medical education. For the past 5 years, she has engaged the IFMSA Research Exchange program (SCORE) as a local and national officer (2013-17) and Development Assistant (2017-ongoing) within the International Team. She will start the internship at ECL with the hope to contribute to the organisation in executing the expected tasks with experience, dedication and enthusiasm.

## TOBACCO

A pack of 30 cigarettes for 25 euro? Tobacco taxation under review in the EU.

25 € is the price you pay for a pack of 30 cigarettes in Australia from 1 September 2018 or 16,65 € for 20 cigarettes. A price

£). In France, the price is 8 € and in Finland 7,40 €. Both France and Finland plan further price increases in the near future.



In 2020, the price of a pack in France will be for instance 10 euro. Raising EU mandatory minimum excise levels for cigarettes and Roll Your Own (RYO) are necessary to obtain higher prices. Non-EU countries, Norway and Iceland, have similar price levels as Ireland and the UK but remain lower than the Australian price.

Raising taxes on tobacco products is one of the most cost-effective measures to reduce consumption of products that increase mortality, while also generating revenue for health and other essential programs. Given this, the World Bank Group Tobacco Control Program gives priority attention to tobacco taxation. Taxation remains a national responsibility, but the EU defines the structure and minimum rates within the EU. The Tobacco Taxation Directive 2011/64/EU defines taxation rates for manufactured tobacco products and is under review. The Commission foresees that a report on EU tobacco taxation along with a possible revision would be published in 2019.

In May 2018, the European Commission launched an open public consultation on the possible revision of Council Directive 2011/64/EU. The open consultation aims at gathering the views of EU citizens and stakeholders on a set of possible options for a potential revision of the Directive.

[Recent research on the EU tobacco tax structure](#), undertaken by Angel Lopez and Michal Stoklosa, has suggested that the revision should promote the convergence of prices across the Member States and aim at closing the price gap between cigarettes and RYO tobacco. These objectives call for increasing the mandatory minimum levels of excise duty on the two products, preferably linking them to the evolution of a European weighted average price. The pace of increase should be faster for RYO tobacco in order to close the gap with respect to cigarette prices.

## PREVENTION

### Roundtable to stimulate whole grain consumption in Europe

On 27 June ECL, [the Health Grain Forum](#) and [the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology](#), held a roundtable on Partnering on Whole Grain for Health and Well-Being – why consumers should choose whole grain first.



The event marked a first step in creating an EU whole grain movement, raising public and policy awareness around the importance of whole grain for health and securing firm interest on the desire to work together to stimulate greater whole grain consumption in Europe.



At the end of August, [ECL Youth Ambassadors](#) met for a three day long Summer School in Paris. The event was kindly hosted by ECL member - [la Ligue Contre le Cancer](#). After the Youth Ambassador group doubled in numbers this spring, this Summer School welcomed already 31 participants from 28 European countries interested in cancer prevention and spreading [the European Code against Cancer](#) messages. Take a look at the Summer School's full overview [here](#).

## ACCESS TO MEDICINES

### Transparency vs. value-based pricing: Unnecessary competition



During the ECCO Summit on 8 September, the Chair of the ECL Access to Medicines Task Force, Eveline Scheres, and Director of EFPIA, Nathalie Moll, met on stage to discuss pricing of medicines. After an introductory presentation of Eveline on the need to increase transparency in medicines pricing, **64.5% of the**

**audience voted that greater transparency would improve affordability and increased patient access.** Similarly, after a presentation of Nathalie on outcomes-based pricing, 77.2% of participants voted

ECL does not deny the need to award greater effectiveness, but advocates for clearly defined value margin in pricing which shall be added as one of the price components. ECL will continue to underline the need for increased transparency in pricing and a sustainable pricing model.



## Cristiana Fonseca (Portuguese League against Cancer) candidates for the UICC Board of Directors

UICC has published candidates for the UICC Board of Directors. We are happy to see a candidate from or member league - Cristiana Fonseca ([Portuguese League Against Cancer](#)). Other candidates from Europe include Ulrika Arehed Kagstrom ([Swedish Cancer Society](#)) and Nick Grant ([Cancer Research UK](#)). See the full list [here](#).



## SIOPE celebrated 20 years

[The European Society for Paediatric Oncology](#) celebrated 20 years of their activities on 25 September 2018 at the European Parliament. An event co-hosted by MEPs Elena Gentile and MAC President Alojz Peterle brought a large number of oncologists to the Parliament. The 2-hour event highlighted main achievements in paediatric oncology while stressing the need to continue improvement of the system, such as the review of the paediatric regulation.



In her congratulation note, ECL Access to Medicines Task Force Chair, Eveline Scheres stressed the need to ensure patients' access to the brand new CAR T-cell therapies, which are known primarily for their ability to treat leukaemia and the hefty price tag. ([ECL paper on CAR-Ts](#))

The celebration continued with a cake and a Golden Ribbon Awards ceremony, which awarded MAC President, Alojz Peterle, for his continuous support.

## EU Joint Action on Vaccinations



[The EU Joint Action on Vaccinations](#) kicked off in Paris on 4 September. This Joint Action was launched by the European Commission to reinforce its support for national vaccination efforts to increase coverage. This Joint Action is co-funded by the Health Programme with €3.55 million.

This Joint Action is coordinated by [INSERM](#) (France) and involves 23 countries (among them 20 EU countries). It addresses vaccine hesitancy and seeks to increase vaccination coverage in the EU. It will also work towards strengthening cooperation of national immunisation advisory groups (NITAGs) with a view to increasing transparency and trust in the decision-making process regarding the introduction of new vaccines. ECL's role is to be a subcontractor in Work Package 5, led by the French Ministry of Health, to address Integration in national policies and sustainability. For our contribution, ECL is involving its group of Youth Ambassadors for the European Code Against Cancer to help with dissemination and for innovative ideas to tackle hesitancy and issues of sustainability. The Press Release for the Kick-Off meeting is [here](#) (in French).

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## The World Cancer Research Fund's annual grant programme

The call for applications for [the World Cancer Research Fund](#) annual grant programme is now open. They welcome applications for proposals on research into the links between diet, nutrition, body composition and physical activity, and cancer prevention and survival. For more information visit [here](#).



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## The Israel Cancer Research Fund scientific symposium

The Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) will be hosting an international scientific symposium at Hebrew University in Jerusalem on November 13-14 of this year. Please visit [the ICRF website](#) for more information.

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## Europe #1 in cancer incidence and deaths in the world

Sad news came from WHO this month as the [International Agency for Research on Cancer](#) (IARC) released its latest cancer statistics. While Europe has only 9% of global population, it



## European HTA cooperation update

European Parliament published [compromised amendments](#) to the legislative proposal on health technology assessment. Key changes to the [Commission draft regulation](#) include:

- Linking the file to access to high quality treatments, affordability and sustainability;
- Stressing the different roles of European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the HTA body; no longer aligns timelines of the HTA process and regulatory approval of the EMA for pharmaceuticals;
- The Coordination Group will vote by 2/3 majority (simple majority vote proposed by the Commission), however, EPP MEPs seek to change this to qualified majority voting which would reflect the size of EU Member States;
- Sets rules where Member States can carry out complementary clinical assessment and encourages re-assessment when new evidence become available;
- Enlarges the group of eligible stakeholders who are to be consulted during the HTA process;
- Increases transparency in term of publishing results and inputs, votes etc. from the scientific consultations and clinical assessments;
- Sets clearer rules on conflict of interest for the members of the Coordination Group.

Overall the amendments give clearer picture of the potential EU cooperation on HTA. ECL agrees with the directions of the Parliament and is satisfied that number of priorities stated in the [ECL position paper on HTA cooperation](#) were reflected in the EP amendments.



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3-5 October 2018. [Bad Hofgastein,](#)  
[Austria](#)

### MEPs AGAINST CANCER

17 October 2018, 14:00-16:00.

**"Cancer, Body Weight & Healthy Diet"**

Hosted by MEP Nessa Childers (IE,  
S&D) – Register [here](#)

### MEPs AGAINST CANCER

10 October 2018, 8:30-10:30.



[ESMO Congress](#)



**Tackling Challenges in Access to Medicines for All Cancer Patients in Europe"**

Hosted by MEP José Inácio Faria (EPP, PT) – Register [here](#)

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**NEWSLETTER****OCTOBER 2018**

## **ECL ACTIVITIES**

The Breast Cancer Awareness Month, marked in countries across the world every October, helps to increase attention and support for the awareness, early detection and treatment as well as palliative care of this disease.

Breast cancer is the most frequent cancer among women, impacting 2.1 million women each year, and also causes the greatest number of cancer-related deaths among women. In 2018, it is estimated that 627,000 women died from breast cancer – that is approximately 15% of all cancer deaths among women. While breast cancer rates are higher among women in more developed regions, rates are increasing in nearly every region globally.

In order to improve breast cancer outcomes and survival, early detection is critical. There are two early detection strategies for breast cancer: early diagnosis and screening. Limited resource settings with weak health systems where the majority of women are diagnosed in late stages should prioritize early diagnosis programmes based on awareness of early signs and symptoms and prompt referral to diagnosis and treatment.

Want to know more? Check the latest Globocan 2018 [factsheet](#).

*Source: World Health Organization (WHO)*

## **PREVENTION**

### **MyPeBS pre-trial launch consortium meeting**

*Paris, France* - MyPeBS (My Personal Breast Screening) is a unique international project that will investigate whether a more personalised form of breast screening could be a better option for women. The pre-trial launch consortium meeting took place on September 28th at Institut Curie. A global update on the project status was followed by the exciting announcement that 1st of December 2018 will be the date for the first patient to be recruited into the trial. Want to know more about the project? Check the newly launched project official [website](#).



## ECL presents the European Code Against Cancer at ESMO 2018

*Munich, Germany* - At the ESMO (European Society for Medical Oncology) Congress, Wendy Yared, ECL Director, represented the association in the EONS nursing track on “Cancer prevention and early detection from a nursing perspective”, where she spoke on the commercial and political barriers to cancer risk reduction related to communicating the European Code Against Cancer. Examples were presented on commercial and political barriers to selected messages of the European Code Against Cancer, namely tobacco control, healthy diet, alcohol, and UV (sunbeds). Tobacco industry interference was given special emphasis, as well as the role of media on vaccine hesitancy.



## TOBACCO

### WHO FCTC COP8 concludes with new strategy to accelerate tobacco control efforts

*Geneva, Switzerland* - The Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) closed its 8th session (COP8) after adopting a Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) outlining an action plan to scale up the global tobacco control agenda over the next few years.



According to the Framework Convention Alliance (FCA), “the most important decision taken during the week – and FCA’s top priority headed into the COP – was arguably the adoption of the first ever strategic plan for the FCTC. Titled the Global Strategy to Accelerate Tobacco Control, this plan provides a roadmap to reach the overarching target to reduce tobacco prevalence use by 30% by 2025. [Read more](#)

## ACCESS TO MEDICINES

On 10 October 2018, the ECL Access to Medicines Task Force launched the [Let's Talk Access White Paper](#) at the European Parliament. Members of the Task Force had the opportunity to discuss with a full room of policy-makers, industry representatives, health NGOs, patient organisations, etc., the challenges and proposed solutions on improving access to innovative cancer treatments in Europe.



Read the [White Paper](#), and catch up on the [Twitter feed](#) and the [Press Release](#)! Already read #LetsTalkAccess and have anything to add to the debate? Reach out to Anna(at)europeancancerleagues who will be thrilled to receive your feedback!



## MEMBER NEWS

### Dr. Cristiana Fonseca appointed at UICC's Board of Directors

ECL is happy to announce that Dr. Cristiana Fonseca, from the Portuguese Cancer League, was recently elected as part of UICC's Board of Directors during the General Assembly hosted the past 2nd of October in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Congratulations! [Read more](#)



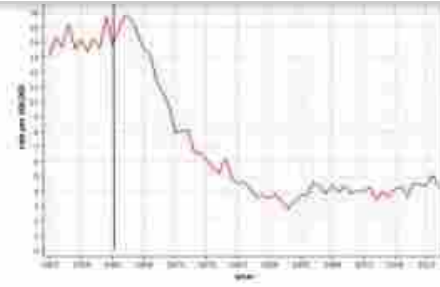
### Equal access to cancer drugs granted in Northern Ireland



Cancer Focus Northern Ireland has warmly welcomed the Department of Health's decision to grant NI cancer patients the same access to life extending drugs as patients living in the rest of the UK following its four year Equal Access campaign. [Read more](#)

### Finland's mass cancer screening at 50 – the cervical cancer success story

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the start of population-based cancer screening in Finland, launched by the Cancer Society of Finland. Cervical cancer screening has been a success story because it is responsible for 80 % reduction in the cervical cancer burden. [Read more](#)



## Right to be forgotten for Belgian former cancer patients

On October 17th the Belgian minister of Consumer Affairs announced he is going to introduce the right to be forgotten in Belgian insurance law. This news followed a week after a delegation of the Flemish Cancer League 'Kom op tegen Kanker' met with his cabinet to discuss the issues faced by young cancer survivors. The delegation advocated the right to be forgotten after highlighting the refusal of cover, or surcharges cancer survivors face because of the obligation to disclose a past cancer diagnosis when applying for insurance, even when they are completely cured. The new legislation will apply to loan repayment insurance and health insurances and will be inspired by the 'droit à l'oubli' that entered into force in France in 2016. The French regulation allows every cancer survivor not to declare their cancer when they are applying for insurance 10 years after the end of the active treatment and 5 years after the active treatment if they had cancer under the age of 18. *For more information contact Wim Geluykens of 'Kom op tegen Kanker' at [Wim.Geluykens\(at\)komoptegenkanker.be](mailto:Wim.Geluykens(at)komoptegenkanker.be)*

## MEPs AGAINST CANCER

### MAC meeting on “Cancer, Body Weight and Healthy Diet” hosted at the European Parliament

On 17 October 2018, MEP Nessa Childers hosted a MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) meeting on “Cancer, Body Weight and Healthy Diet” at the European Parliament. A multi-stakeholder panel of invited speakers from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), World Cancer Research Fund International (WCFR), European Commission DG Sante, Healthgrain Forum and Danish Cancer Society presented the latest updates on the field. Further discussion on the topic of whole grains was held, and it was agreed that further research on the topic, as well as European studies on childhood obesity and the independent role of nutrition and physical activity are needed, recognising them all as important risk factors for cancer. [Read more](#)



## EU NEWS

### Ireland's Parliament passes Public Health Alcohol Bill

after nearly three years of debate. The Public Health (Alcohol) Bill will establish a minimum unit price for alcohol, mandates health and cancer warning labels on bottles, and adds new restrictions on advertising and alcohol placement in stores.

“We know that we have a relationship with alcohol in this country that is not good, damages our health, harms our communities and harms many families. The measures in this Bill will make a real difference to changing the culture of drinking in Ireland over a period of time,” Health Minister Simon Harris said in a statement. The bill must be signed by Ireland’s President Michael D. Higgins in order to take effect. [Read more](#)

## Pharma - Rethinking the R&D Incentives System

A new WHO paper — ordered up by the Austrian Council presidency — recommends a sweeping overhaul of Europe’s approach to pharma R&D, including the possible reversal of some new trends in drug approvals. Written by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the “[policy brief](#)” aims to address the “misalignment” between drugmakers’ priorities and unmet medical needs, while looking at ways to bolster cooperation among EU members.

A [separate European Observatory paper](#) — also written at the request of the Austrian presidency — compares pricing and reimbursement systems around the EU to look at how countries are dealing with high-priced meds.



### ECL Annual Meeting

Hosted by the German Cancer Society.  
*Restricted to ECL members*



13-16 November 2018, Berlin, Germany

### EAHP's 2018 Survey on Medicines Shortages to improve patient outcomes



7 November 2018, Press Club Brussels  
Europe, Brussels, Belgium

### EORTC IBCD 2018



29 - 30 November 2018, Radisson Blu  
Royal Hotel, Brussels, Belgium

### EPHA Trail blazers

Routes to better and affordable medicines by 2025. What do we want from our future medicines policy?



Winds of change: towards new ways of  
improving public health in Europe



28 November - 1 December 2018,  
Cankarjev Dom, Ljubljana, Slovenia



**Our mailing address is:**

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**November** is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide.

**Prostate cancer** is the second most commonly occurring cancer in men and the fourth most commonly occurring cancer overall. There were 1.3 million new cases in 2018. The top 20 countries with the highest rates of prostate cancer in 2018 are given in the table below.

Age-adjusted incidence rates of prostate cancer have increased dramatically and this is largely because of the increased availability of screening for prostate-specific antigen (PSA) in men without symptoms of the disease. This test leads to detection of many prostate cancers that are small and/or would otherwise remain unrecognised, and which may or may not develop further into higher stage disease.

According to the latest [ESMO guidelines](#), population-based PSA screening for prostate cancer reduces prostate cancer mortality at the expense of overdiagnosis and overtreatment and is not recommended. Also, testing for prostate cancer in asymptomatic men should not be done in men over the age of 70 years.

Want to know more? Check the World Cancer Research Fund ([WCRF](#)) information on prostate cancer.

**Source:** *WCRF and ESMO guidelines*



*Berlin, Germany* - The past 15th of November, members and invited experts of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) gathered from 26 countries all over Europe to discuss the achievements and future challenges of cancer care in Europe.

Preceding the annual conference, side meetings for the Patient Support Working Group (PSWG), Access to Medicines Taskforce and Youth Ambassadors Advisory Group took place. ECL is glad to announce that PSWG participants elected Arik Meesen (Dutch



PSWG. Want to know more? Read ECL's [press release](#) on the conference.



## MyPeBS national meeting in Belgium



*Brussels, Belgium-* MyPeBS (My Personal Breast Screening) is a unique international project that will investigate whether a more personalised form of breast screening could be a better option for women. The national meeting for Belgium took place on November 17th at La Fondation Contre le Cancer. A global update on the project status was followed by relevant stakeholders from the country, including Dr. Jean-Benoît Burrion (BE PI) and Prof. Chantal Van Ongeval (KU Leuven). Want to know more about the project? Check the newly launched project official [website](#).

## Youth Ambassadors for the European Code Against Cancer

*Berlin, Germany* - During ECL Annual Assembly, a parallel meeting for the integrants of the advisory group for the ECL Youth Ambassadors program to promote the European Code Against Cancer (ECAC) was conducted. The group is proud to announce the publication of the 2nd edition of the program [booklet](#), as well as the kick-off for future collaborative campaigns in 2019 during World Cancer Day (February 4th) and the European Week Against Cancer (end of May) among the entire european group.



Would you like to support the group in its purposes? Contact us at [intern\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:intern@europeancancerleagues.org).

## ECL participates in the planning of the 5th World Conference for UV and Skin Cancer Prevention

*Hamburg, Germany* - Following on from the previous successful conferences in Copenhagen (2011), Berlin (2013), Melbourne (2015) and Toronto (2018), the 5th world conference for UV and Skin Cancer prevention in May 2020 in Belgium will bring together researchers and practitioners from Cancer leagues, public health institutions, clinics, radiation protection agencies, epidemiology and basic sciences, interested in UV and Skin Cancer prevention. The conference has the aim to contribute to the evolution of research, implementation, epidemiology and policy.

ECL participated in the first planning meeting of the conference, organised by [Euroskin](#), and encourages cancer leagues to contribute to making this important event a success for skin cancer prevention.

## TOBACCO

## More and more countries adopt tobacco plain packaging legislation

An international report released by the Canadian Cancer Society shows that there is tremendous international momentum for tobacco plain packaging. There are now 25 countries and territories moving forward with plain packaging, with 9 having adopted the measure and 16 working on it. Read further on the report and its implementation at ECL's [article](#) on the subject.



## ACCESS TO MEDICINES



## The 2018 Universal Access and Affordable Medicines Forum came at a critical juncture for pharmaceutical policy in Europe

[EPHA's 2018 Forum](#), "Trailblazers: Routes to better and affordable medicines by 2025-what do we want from our future medicines policy?", convened key stakeholders and influencers once again to take stock of these developments, to distill them and look forward to what should happen next, following the renewal of the European Commission and the European Parliament elections next year, at this crucial moment for pharmaceutical policy.



## Building momentum for Access to Medicines

ECL participated in further meetings building momentum for access to medicines, including the [Symposium 'Accessibilité et développement des médicaments'](#) organised by Kom op tegen Kanker among others, the "[Multi-stakeholder workshop with the Heads of Medicines Agencies](#)" by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the "[Presentation of the 2018 EAHP Medicines Shortages Report](#)" by the European Associates of Hospital Pharmacists.



## MEMBER NEWS



## The Irish Cancer Society won the 1st prize EU Health Award for Tobacco Control



The Irish Cancer Society X-HALE Youth Smoking Prevention and Education programme has been rolled out across Ireland each year since 2011 in partnership with over 270 community-based youth organisations and young people aged 10-24 as part of our ongoing commitment and contribution towards

smoke-free generation among their friends, communities and wider networks using film, social media and community action. Want to know more? Read the ministry [press release](#) and further information on the EU Health Award for Tobacco control at their [website](#).

## La Ligue 100th Anniversary

ECL warmly congratulates our member league La Ligue contre le Cancer (France) on reaching the fantastic milestone of their [centenary](#).



### Meeting with Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta

On 20 November, the ECL Secretariat met with Her Excellency Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, President of Malta and MEP Francis Zammit Dimech (EPP, MT) to discuss issues patients regularly face in access to quality care and treatments in a small country like Malta, the problems connected to communicating messages of cancer prevention and healthy lifestyles as well as the engagement of Maltese National Member Platform in the cancer leagues community.



ECL was impressed by the active engagement and continuous efforts of Her Excellency to improve quality of life of patients in Malta. ECL would like to express our gratitude to MEP Against Cancer Francis Zammit Dimech for facilitation of this fruitful meeting. We are looking forward to our future cooperation.



### ECIBC: Newly published breast cancer recommendations online

The European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer (ECIBC) is developing the European Breast Guidelines, evidence based recommendations. The European Breast Guidelines provide women and healthcare providers with clear, objective and independent guidance on breast cancer screening and diagnosis. They guide healthcare managers and policy-makers in planning, organising and monitoring the effectiveness of services for breast cancer screening and diagnosis. The recommendations already available can be found [online](#), and more will be released in the coming months, as soon as they are finalised.

### ECL attends “All Policies for a Healthy Europe” Launch Meeting

*Brussels, Belgium* - The European elections and the appointment of a new European Commission will

prioritise citizens' health and well-being and respond to the expectations of European citizens: 70% of Europeans want more EU action on health and social issues (Eurobarometer). [Read more](#)

## AIOM is fighting the “fake news” on cures

Concerned about the prominence of news about alternative, evidence-free cancer advice on the internet, the Italian Association of Medical Oncology (AIOM) created a website, roughly translated as “[Tumor... But what's the truth?](#)” After six months, around 150,000 people have checked it out, AIOM announced at its weekend conference, and a group of oncologists tasked with answering people’s questions have received 50,000 messages. Given that as many as 30 percent of cancer cases are attributable to food, nutrition is a top subject on the site. Among the messages: lemon, ginger, honey and beetroot juice won’t definitively prevent cancer, and red meat in moderation doesn’t cause it.



### ECAC Update Meeting

Hosted by the International Agency for  
Research on Cancer (IARC)

*Restricted to ECL members*



*4-5 December 2018, Lyon, France*

### Evidence into Practice – Action on Health Inequalities



*6 December 2018, Renaissance  
Brussels Hotel, Brussels, Belgium*

### Lung cancer screening: from trial to practice



**ERS** EUROPEAN  
RESPIRATORY  
SOCIETY

*11-12 December 2018, Barcelona, Spain*

### Smoke Free Partnership Annual Coalition Meeting



*12 December 2018, Brussels, Belgium*



Our mailing address is:

[ecl@europeanleague.org](mailto:ecl@europeanleague.org)



# NEWSLETTER

# NEW YEAR 2019

## ECL ACTIVITIES

According to the European Code against Cancer ([ECAC](#)) up to 50% of cancer deaths in Europe could be prevented if current knowledge about cancer prevention was put into practice. Therefore, the Association of European Cancer Leagues calls for people to make simple lifestyle changes in 2019, as part of their New Year's resolutions, to significantly lower their risk of cancer. **Healthy New Year 2019!**

**OPEN CALL FOR ECL  
YOUTH AMBASSADORS**  
for the European Code Against Cancer (ECAC)

**Apply now!**

Deadline: 28 February 2019



## CANCER PREVENTION

### ECL participates at the European Public Health Conference



*Ljubljana, Slovenia* - The past 28th of November to December 1st, the 12th European Public Health Conference gathered experts from all across the region, as well as international representatives. ECL's Senior Cancer Control Officer Cancer, David Ritchie, chaired a [session](#) on cancer and presented two posters on "Applying the Health Belief Model and Theory of Planned Behaviour to mammography screening" and "[Do you know about](#)

## TOBACCO CONTROL

### The latest Smoke Free Partnership infographic on tobacco industry presence in the EU policy-making environment is out

Tobacco industry interference remains the largest obstacle to the implementation of effective tobacco control policies worldwide. When tobacco industry interference results in delays or policies being blocked, this translates into real lives being put at higher risk of disease and death. Continue reading the full [article](#).

## ACCESS TO MEDICINES

### New publications from OECD and WHO keep the Access to Medicines discussion high in the political agenda

Despite diverging messages, ECL welcomes the publication of two new key reports from the WHO and the OECD. Access to Medicines, especially in the field of cancer, will remain fundamental in 2019 and upcoming years. ECL is looking forward to keep on discussing its "[Let's Talk Access](#)" White Paper and its alignment with the [WHO](#) "Access to Medicines, Vaccines and Pharmaceutical Technical Report - Pricing of cancer medicines and its impact" and [OECD](#) "Pharmaceutical Innovation and Access to Medicines".



## ECL MEMBER NEWS

### Dr. Eva Siracka, founder of the League against Cancer in Slovakia, retired at 93

Eva Siracka, MD, has been since her early professional career engaged with oncology working in Oncologic Institute of St. Elisabeth in Bratislava, where she worked as physician, researcher and teacher. She was the first Slovak woman specialised in radiotherapy. Later on, while working at Institute of Experimental Oncology, she had chance to collaborate with renowned world oncologic institutes and contributed to development of oncology in Czechoslovakia.

She received several prominent national and international awards including National Prize for participation in research on heterogeneity of tumor cells, Presidential award Pribina's First Category Cross of the Slovak Republic, WHO's Sasakawa Health Prize, EU Parliament's Civi Europeo Praemium. In 2006, she was awarded Women's Life Award for Lifetime Contribution to Representing Slovak Women in the World; and the World Medical Association ranked her among "65 Caring Physicians of the World".

In 1990, Eva Siracká established the League against Cancer

has been the LaC President from 1990, but she has decided to retire by the end of this year. In 1998-2004, she represented Central and Eastern Europe as a member of the Executive Committee of the ECL. She is the founder of the Slovak Venus Clubs for Women who underwent breast cancer surgery. In 1997 she launched the so-called Daffodil Day campaign to raise awareness about cancer diseases and fundraise for educational activities and better management of oncologic patients. This campaign is on long-term run the most successful one in Slovakia with high trust of people who generously donate for its deeply human purpose.



ECL would like to thank Dr. Siracka for her commitment and dedication. Her strong vision of cancer prevention and improved life of cancer patients has always been accompanied by a unique determination to work and to achieve.

## Finland first to release application for tracking annual cancer costs and treatment outcomes

Finland has today become the first in the world to release an application that tracks annual cancer-related costs on a national scale. Cancer is one of Finland's most common diseases, and this application provides a basis from which to develop its treatment. The application is created by the Cancer Foundation Finland and the Nordic Healthcare Group. Read more in the [press release](#).



## Ruling Dutch Court in criminal case against tobacco: 'Irreversible process has been set in motion'

Dutch Cancer Society: The court in The Hague has rejected the complaint submitted in the so-called Article 12 procedure against cigarette manufacturers. The Dutch Cancer Society is one of the parties that filed the charges, which centre on protecting children from what have become known as 'rigged cigarettes'. Want to know more? Read the full [article](#).





ECL welcomes the award given by the Liga Portuguesa Contra o Cancro and would like to congratulate Elsa Picao for her work and dedication to the organisation as a Youth Ambassador promoting the European Code Against Cancer. Thanks for joining us to build an Europe free of preventable cancers through #cancercode!



## EU countries approve Commission's trans fats limit

A committee of EU country representatives today approved the European Commission's plan to limit industrially produced trans fats to two percent of food's total fat content. These unsaturated fatty acids, which are added to foods such as margarine and used to lengthen the shelf life of pre-packaged cookies and cakes, can increase the risk of heart disease. The General Food Law division of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed voted to implement the limit as an amendment to existing rules on the addition of substances to food. Under the change, companies would have until April 2021 to adapt the formulations of their products. Read [more](#).

## Energy balance and body fatness: WCRF report launched

Overweight and obesity are considered to be one of the most pressing public health concerns of this century. Living with overweight or obesity is linked to many diseases – including 12 different types of cancer – and at a population level is associated with significant negative economic impacts. On that end, WCRF published in full their evidence and judgements on exposures that increase or decrease the risk of weight gain, overweight and obesity. The report, Energy balance and body fatness: the determinants of weight gain, overweight and obesity, is [available](#) to download for free.

## Irish panel recommends extending HPV vaccination to boys

Extending the nine-valent vaccine against human papillomavirus to boys as well as girls could prevent 101 cases of cervical cancer in women over 20 years, according to Ireland's health technology assessment body. That's in comparison to the country's existing policy, of only vaccinating girls with a four-valent vaccine. Read [more](#).



**ECL Manifesto Press Release**

**ESTRO event on Radiotherapy:  
seizing the opportunity in cancer care**





29 January 2019, European Parliament,  
Brussels, Belgium

**Discovery, Translation,  
Commercialisation: Developing CAR-  
T into viable, accessible therapies**



30-31 January 2019, London, United  
Kingdom



Join us on 4 February



**ESTRO**

European Society for  
RADIOTHERAPY & ONCOLOGY

31 January 2019, 17:00 European  
Parliament, Brussels, Belgium

**ECL Webinar on Environmental Health**

Hosted by the International Agency for  
Research on Cancer (IARC)



8 February 2019, TBC  
Primarily aimed at ECL Youth  
Ambassadors for the ECAC



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