

**ECL Opinion on European HTA Cooperation**

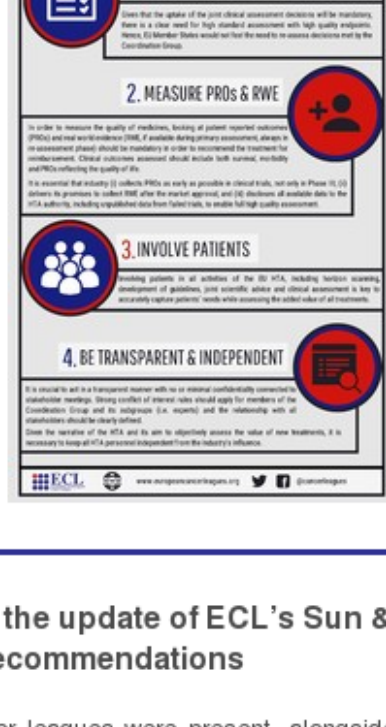


On 4 April 2018 ECL published a statement supporting the Commission's legislative proposal on the European Cooperation on the **Health Technology Assessment (HTA)**.

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 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 PSWG 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 Rennes 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.

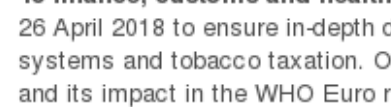


**European Health Parliament: Policy Recommendations launched**



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 Prokukpova, ECL Policy & Project Officer and Vice-Chair of the Outcomes-base Health Care Committee via email - [Anna\(at\)europencancerleagues.org](mailto:Anna(at)europencancerleagues.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 2011/64/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 quitline 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 Grosseleté** 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-erg.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.europencancerleagues.org](http://www.europencancerleagues.org)



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