

**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\(at\)europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:ecl(at)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)**  
**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 mandatory [here](#).

**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)

**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* (#sospacientes17) (*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 V '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.

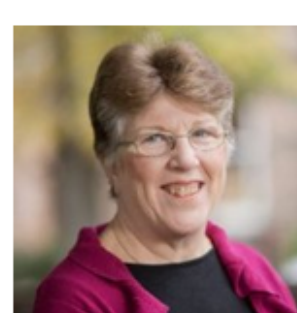
These awards recognize the effort, dedication, talent and imagination that patient associations make throughout the year to provide assistance, services and solutions to their users and society in general.

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!

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



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