

01.04.2026

European Cancer Leagues call on the European Parliament to uphold the strong protection against carcinogens in cosmetics and deliver on the commitment to prevent cancer in Europe

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

On behalf of the [Association of European Cancer Leagues](#) (ECL), the voice of 35 national and regional cancer societies across Europe, I am writing to you in view of the upcoming vote, on **April 15th**, on changes to the provisions of the Cosmetic Products Regulation (CPR), via the Chemicals Omnibus.

We wish to express our profound concern regarding the proposals that would weaken the current level of protection against carcinogens in cosmetics under the Cosmetic Products Regulation.

Since 2009, the Regulation has provided a precautionary framework that effectively prohibits the use of carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic to reproduction (CMRs) in cosmetic products, with a strict system for derogations. This regulatory approach, which is at the heart of EU's health and chemicals policy, has been instrumental in reducing avoidable exposure to harmful substances in everyday consumer products.

In the EU, a new case of cancer is diagnosed every nine seconds. Cancer mortality is set to increase by more than 24% by 2035, making it the leading cause of death in the EU. To achieve a Europe free of this disease, we need to intensify the fight against cancer and not backtrack on prevention in any area.

Lowering the level of protection would not only increase the risk of cumulative exposure to carcinogens, but it would also contradict the EU's strong commitments under [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) – a blueprint for stronger laws and policies to protect people's health and prevent cancer.

Over the last years, the European Parliament has consistently demonstrated an ambitious stance in the fight against cancer. Any move to relax the current restrictions on cancer-causing chemicals in cosmetics would be a significant step backwards on safeguarding public health.

We therefore urge you to:

- Uphold the **existing level of protection** against carcinogens in cosmetic products, by maintaining the current prohibitions **without introducing distinctions** between the exposure routes, and avoiding any **extensions of transition times** for products containing newly identified carcinogens.
- Reaffirm the central role of the **precautionary principle** in EU's rules on the use of carcinogens in consumer products.
- Ensure full **policy coherence** with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and EU's broader objectives for health-protective chemical regulation.

Protecting citizens from avoidable exposure to carcinogenic substances must remain a non-negotiable priority. We count on your leadership to raise these concerns in the current internal discussions in the European Parliament and help ensure that the European Union continues to set the highest standards in cancer prevention.

With best regards,

Dr Wolfgang Fecke
Executive Director