

Rory Palmer MEP (S&D, UK)

Seeking your support to be Chair of MEPs Against Cancer (MAC)

Relevant experience:

Chair and co-ordinator of the Dying to Work EU campaign

I set up and launched this cross-party group of MEPs in 2018 to take forward the Dying to Work EU campaign at European level.

The campaign aims to secure stronger employment protections and rights for people with a terminal illness, it was started in the UK in my constituency, read more at www.dyingtoworkeu.org

Campaign partners include the European Cancer Patients Coalition, the European Trade Union Confederation; European Patients Forum; the European Federation for Neurological Associations; and the Association of European Cancer Leagues.

I recently spoke about this campaign, calling on the Commission to take action, in the Plenary Topical Debate on a Cancer Plan for Europe.

Member of the ENVI Committee (2017-present)

Since joining the Parliament I have been a member of the ENVI Committee, taking an active interest in health related files.

I am the S&D Shadow Rapporteur for the Recast of the EU Drinking Water Directive, where amendments I tabled have strengthened the Commission's proposals on public health and water quality/safety.

Member of the EMPL Committee (2017-2019)

I was the S&D Shadow Rapporteur for the Report, Pathways for the Reintegration of Workers recovering from Injury and Illness into Quality Employment, I worked closely with the ECR Rapporteur and proposed specific wording on support for cancer patients and workers with a terminal illness.

This report was supported unanimously by the EMPL Committee.

I have worked closely with trade unions and MEPs on **securing specific protection for healthcare workers from carcinogenic substances** they can be exposed to through the course of their work. This involved securing meetings directly with Commissioner Thyssen's Cabinet.

Before becoming a MEP

Directly before becoming a MEP I was the Deputy City Mayor of Leicester (UK) with lead responsibility for **Public Health** and Adult Social Care.

This involved providing leadership to the city's Public Health team, working closely with health professionals from across the health and wellbeing system, **developing an ambitious strategy for Health and Wellbeing including cancer reduction and prevention** targets and leading its implementation, and responsibility for a €22,000,000 public health budget.

Leicester has one of the best performing stop smoking services in all of the UK: the service reaches out to people in all communities to encourage and support people to stop smoking, reducing prevalence of smoking-related illness. I am proud of the role I played in supporting this performance and the positive difference made to thousands of families.

I was the Chairman of the City's Health & Wellbeing Board, a strategic level board responsible for setting strategic direction and leadership for the improvement of health across the city's population. Part of the board's role was monitoring key performance indicators and driving improvement, for example on cancer screening.

I have significant experience of providing leadership in health-related policy and working closely and on a cross-party basis with MEPs, politicians, officials, patients and advocacy groups and others to take forward campaigns and initiatives.

Rory Palmer MEP (S&D, UK) **Seeking your support to be Chair of MEPs Against Cancer (MAC)**

Dear colleagues,

The promise of a Beating Cancer Plan for Europe must not be a missed opportunity.

This is a big moment for all groups and organisations working to tackle cancer and to secure better outcomes for cancer patients.

MEPs who want to see cancer rates falling in Europe, better treatment and outcomes and continued cutting edge research must work together to set out ambitious demands of the Beating Cancer Plan for Europe.

As elected MEPs we must set the agenda on this, developing an ambitious vision and specific proposals to feed into the early work on the Plan. We must be ready to work closely with the new Commissioner for Health, ready with a clear and strong vision for what we want to see in the new Beating Cancer Plan. But we must also be strong in holding the Commission to account as this plan develops and on other decisions and proposals in the cancer field.

If elected as your Chair, I will immediately convene a series of discussions to develop our key demands and proposals for the Beating Cancer Plan so we can present these to the Commission at the earliest opportunity. I also pledge a co-ordinated approach to raising cancer-related issues across the Parliament, ensuring MEPs Against Cancer has a link MEP on each relevant committee.

MEPs Against Cancer has a strong reputation as an effective campaigning network. I would want to build on this by establishing an early set of cancer campaign priorities for this mandate through an open and transparent decision-making process within the group.

It is also vital we continue to bring together cancer campaign groups, patients groups and advocacy networks and the cancer research community to share our ideas, and to build common agendas and priorities. MEPs Against Cancer should hold regular open meetings and workshops to bring stakeholders together.

I have been a MEP since 2017. I have worked on a number of cancer campaigns in the Parliament and worked across health-related files.

I hope you will consider supporting me to be the Chair of MEPs Against Cancer.

Please get in touch if you have any questions.
Best wishes,

Rory Palmer

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