

The MEPs Against Cancer Interest Group announces new Vice-Chairs

The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) interest group at the European Parliament **officially announces the resignation of MEP Miriam Dalli (Malta, S&D) and MEP Petra De Sutter (Belgium, Greens/EFA) from their MAC Vice-Chair positions.**

Dr De Sutter was appointed as one of Belgium's deputy prime ministers and Ms Dalli accepted to be co-opted into the Maltese House of Representatives. **The MAC Secretariat and MAC Co-chairs MEP Véronique Trillet-Lenoir and Loucas Furlas warmly thank them for their hard work and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.**



MEP Miriam Dalli said: *"It was an absolute honour to be the Vice Chair of the MAC group. I want to thank the MAC Secretariat and my colleagues for their support and hard work over the years in tackling cancer and fighting for increased patients rights, particularly now amidst a global pandemic. Despite my departure from this position, I will continue to fight for increased access to*

cancer treatments throughout the EU, the right to forget, increased budgets for research, and the importance of patient-centered care - all of which are critical to decreasing cancer rates in Europe."



MEP Petra De Sutter stated: *"It was an honour to be the Vice-Chair of the MAC-group. I am grateful to my colleagues in the European Parliament and the MAC Secretariat for their commitment and collaboration to fight cancer within Europe. In the past months, health has become a top priority on the European agenda, and it should remain like this. I have high expectations of*

the European Commission's upcoming EU cancer strategy and the work of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer. I hope that prevention will be clearly prioritised, as well as ensuring access to cancer medicines for all citizens and fighting health inequalities. From my position as vice-prime minister of the Belgian government, I will continue to support the fight against cancer and stress the importance of European cooperation. I wish the new MAC Vice-Chair Tilly Metz best of luck and I have no doubt that she will be fully committed."

At the same time, the MAC Secretariat is thrilled to announce that MAC members **MEP Sara Cerdas (Portugal, S&D)** and **MEP Tilly Metz (Luxembourg, Greens/EFA)** will join Co-Chairs MEPs Loucas Furlas and Véronique Trillet-Lenoir as Vice-Chairs of the MAC Leadership Board.

MEP Sara Cerdas is a medical doctor and sits on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) as well as the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).

MEP Tilly Metz is a full member of ENVI and substitute member in the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

The MAC Secretariat is delighted to welcome MEP Sara Cerdas and MEP Tilly Metz to the MAC leadership team.

Their breadth of experience and expertise, not only across health but a variety of issues and policy areas, will be hugely valuable to the interest group as it continues to find new ways to make beating cancer a mission possible.



MEP Sara Cerdas stated: *"Cancer is not only a disease, as it has impacts on health, personal, societal and economic dimensions. To fight cancer, we must have a holistic approach whilst also understanding the needs of all the people involved in the process. My aim is to tackle in two main fronts: in the reduction of the incidence by improving health literacy, health promotion and healthier environments and lifestyles; on the other hand, in earlier diagnosis, in increasing the accessibility to high standard treatments and care, and the reintroduction of cancer patients in the labour market and support to the caregivers during the whole process."*



MEP Tilly Metz said: *"Health should be a top priority in the European policy agenda and patient care and wellbeing should be our focus. Access to treatments is a key issue in Europe. I am a long-time advocate for more public research and innovation so that all patients can benefit from the best treatments. Prevention, cure and aftercare are very important. But we should not forget the importance of having a holistic approach: being able to continue to have a social life, to go to work, or to go to school in the case of children. I'm committed to find solutions to make the lives of people living with cancer easier. This is often decisive in recovering and building a safe environment for patients."*

Notes for Editors

1. The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group was founded in 2005 by a group of MEPs at the European Parliament. 125* MAC members from 24 EU Member States and all different political groups work together to strengthen cancer control policies, promote cancer prevention and ensure access to high quality treatments and care for cancer patients across Europe. MAC members believe that European cooperation adds value to Member States' action.
2. [More information about MAC](#). / Follow [@MAC_MEPs](#) on Twitter and [@MEPsAgainstCancer](#) on Facebook
3. [Beating Cancer: Mission Possible – MAC Group's 2019 Manifesto](#).
4. [Members of MEPs Against Cancer](#).
5. [More information about the Association of European Cancer Leagues \(ECL\)](#), Secretariat of the MAC Group.