

Dear Members of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action,

You can find our latest newsletter below, which includes recent activities of National & European Parliamentarians for Cancer Action members in different countries and provides updates on relevant cancer policy developments from across Europe and beyond.

If you would like to invite colleagues, former members of parliament and relevant policymakers in your country to join our pan-national collaboration for cancer policy action, please do not hesitate to contact us and take the initiative to share your support in fighting cancer in Europe.

[IN THE NEWS](#)

ECO PROVIDES EVIDENCE TO UK HOUSE OF COMMONS INQUIRY



At the beginning of this year, ECO was invited to give oral evidence at a hearing of the UK Parliament's [House of Commons Health Select Committee](#) which took place on Tuesday 9 January 2024 on the innovations with the greatest potential to transform cancer diagnosis and treatment for patients evidence to the and its inquiry into '[Future Cancer](#)'.

[Professor Mark Lawler](#), ECO Board Member 2020-23 made key points to the Committee, including:

1. **Recognising the abundant opportunity for all countries to do better on early detection, and diagnosis of cancer;**
2. **Promoting the usefulness of goal-orientated cancer policy, including setting clear goals in any field of activity provides clarity, planning certainty and political accountability.** It also unites diverse stakeholders by establishing common goals to which all must play a part. It can also serve as a vital mechanism for addressing inequalities in cancer care via its universal approaches.
3. **Opportunities for international collaboration.** In this spirit, ECO's recently published '[Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer](#)' publication, supported by more than 70 organisations from across Europe and around the world, has articulated a shared enthusiasm in the European cancer community for the UK to be welcomed into EU level cancer cooperations. Under Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Research Mission on Cancer.

More information about the inquiry is available [here](#). A recording of the 9 January hearing is available [here](#).

[Together Against Cancer: ECO participating at the Greece's Annual Conference on cancer](#)



Together Against Cancer: Greece



Related Resources

[The European Cancer Manifesto for 2024](#)

[VISIT](#)

The European Cancer Organisation (ECO) has partnered with ELLOK to spotlight the manifesto's opportunities for improving cancer care in Greece. Both organisations will help raise awareness during [ELLOK's 8th Annual Congress](#) and during World Cancer Day. The *Hellenic Cancer Federation* represents 46 member organisations from across Greece, informing and empowering them to help shape needed health policies.

At ELLOK's invitation, ECO will participate in the Federation's Annual Conference, during which the 'Time to Accelerate Manifesto' will feature heavily. ECO delegation will meet with Deputy Minister of Health, and policymakers to discuss our support and contribution in improving cancer care in Greece.

We will publish an update after the event. Until then, please find more information at the [event page](#).

Accelerating the EU's Commitment to Beating Cancer



On Wednesday 31 January at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, ***the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides***, celebrated three years after the publication of the most advanced and promising political agenda on cancer: the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. In particular, the European Commission presented a key recommendation to eliminate cervical cancer in Europe and prevent a number of cancers connected to viruses such as HPV and HBV.

In particular, ECO welcomes the recent publication by the European Commission proposing Council Recommendations on vaccine preventable cancers, which include:

- **the call for the development of a national coverage tracking dashboard by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the recommendation for free and school-based delivery of both vaccinations, increased awareness campaigns on cancer risks;**
- **the suggestion to make hepatitis B (HBV) vaccination routine in drug treatment programs and prisons. Additionally, the proposal advises countries to simplify procedures for obtaining parental consent to vaccinate minors.**

We also urge a renewed commitment to HPV cancer elimination, aligning with the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and WHO Cervical Cancer elimination strategy. This

involves endorsing gender-neutral vaccination policies and surpassing vaccination coverage targets.

More recommendations on vaccines preventable cancers and cancer prevention are included in our [Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer](#) manifesto, [here](#).

TIME TO ACCELERATE



“[Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer](#)” is a manifesto of recommendations for the future of EU cancer policy under the next European Commission 2024-2029. It represents the result of inputs and consultations with many organisations and individuals active in pan-European cancer policy cooperation, and specific consultation with the [Focused Topic Networks of the European Cancer Organisation](#).

The recommendations reflect experiences and perspectives gathered during an unprecedented five-year period in EU cancer policy, with landmark attention and



investment provided via both Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Research Mission on Cancer.

You can [download the full manifesto here.](#)

The European Cancer Manifesto for 2024 is already supported by more than 70 prominent organisations and policy-makers and we invite all members of National & Europeans Parliamentarians for Cancer Action to join these leading voices and endorse the 'Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer Manifesto'.