



**MEPs against Cancer (MAC) All-party Parliamentary Interest
Group on Cancer
Multi-annual strategic road map**
www.mepsagainstcancer.eu



**Secretariat of the MEPs against Cancer group
April 2016**



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Section 1: Executive Summary

This document is designed to provide clarity and direction to the structure of the MEPs against Cancer (MAC) interest group of the European Parliament.

The content of this document has been developed by the Secretariat of the MAC Group, the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL). The aim of this roadmap is to guide the Secretariat in the working of the MAC group, to ensure the work is in harmony with its strategic goals and targets for expansion of the group. This document does not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of all individual MEPs or EU Institutions.

The MAC group is an all-party political group on cancer in the European Parliament. MAC members are from all political groups, and come from different EU member states. The MAC group was founded ten years ago in 2005 and remains the only dedicated group to cancer policy in the European Parliament. ECL provides the Secretariat for the MAC group. ECL is a Pan-European umbrella organisation based in Brussels, which represents the interests of its national member leagues and cancer societies across Europe and beyond. The nature of the Secretarial support between MAC and ECL ranges from provision of expertise and knowledge in terms of cancer policy, to financial support for meetings and meeting follow up.

The MAC group frequently works with partner organisations from civil society, academic institutions, medical and research organisations and similar and welcomes an inclusive and collaborative approach. In accordance with the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), neither the tobacco industry nor its representatives will have any involvement in the work of the MAC group.

The MAC group will continue to function for the length of this Parliamentary term 2014-2019. The group aims to extend its membership to cover all political parties and all EU member states to ensure equal representation from around Europe. This will develop in practice via a 'MAC Ambassador' programme, where MEPs will represent MAC in their national parliaments with the ambition to set up MAC groups in national Parliament's across Europe.

In terms of the work conducted in the European Parliament, the MAC group will operate with accordance with the EU policy agenda. This will mean that meetings will be required to have a specific objective and have an issue to be debated that falls within the competence of the European Union on health or have another such objective such as awareness raising, where the issue warrants a MAC meeting in order for this to be achieved. MAC meetings will require the endorsement/support of at least one MEP, and be fully aligned with the strategic goals of the MAC group.



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Section 2: About MAC

MEPs Against Cancer: A brief history

The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group was started on the initiative of MEPs in 2005. It aimed to unite MEPs from all political groups and enable them to take action on European cancer policy. It also catered to an unmet need as a dedicated forum for MEPs to discuss cancer policy. Relevant European Parliament committees to the work of the MAC group include Environment, Health and Food Safety (ENVI), Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL), Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

The MAC forum enabled MEPs to discuss in detail the different aspects of cancer; from prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

In September 2014, at the beginning of the Eighth Legislature of the European Parliament, the MAC group was renewed, with key cancer control MEPs reiterating their commitment to the fight against cancer. **The MAC group is the only group of its kind discussing cancer policy in the European Parliament.**

MEPs against Cancer in the European Parliament Eighth Legislature 2014-2019

The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) work together in order to improve cancer prevention and control in Europe, in the belief that European cooperation adds value to member state actions. In order to address the challenges faced by the EU, MAC works together with the European Commission and Council and collaborate with relevant organisations to reduce cancer incidence by 15% by the year 2020.

Strategic goals 2014-2019

In the 2014 to 2019 legislature the strategic goal of the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group is to **reduce cancer incidence** by:

- **promoting prevention,**
- **reducing mortality by ensuring equitable access to high quality treatment and care**
- **ensuring a good quality of life for cancer patients and survivors.**

Governance 2014-2019

The President of the MEPs against Cancer is Mr Alojz Peterle (Slovenia). The group has Vice Presidents, committed to taking action in the fight against cancer. These are Ms Nessa Childers (Ireland), Mr Pavel Poc (Czech Republic), and Dr Charles Tannock (United Kingdom). Members of the MEPs Against Cancer are from all political groups from all over the European Union.

The MEPs Against Cancer group receives secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a Brussels-based not-for-profit organisation who represents National cancer leagues/societies across the EU and beyond.



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MAC meetings of the Eighth Legislature (topics)

*as of April 2016

- Launch of the Fourth Revision of the European Code against Cancer, December 2014
- Cancer and Endocrine Disrupting chemicals, January, 2015
- Occupational skin cancer: the case of fire fighters, March 2015
- Skin cancer awareness day 2015, March 2015
- Oral cancer: Dentists saving lives, June 2015
- Pancreatic cancer, September 2015
- Launch of an EU childhood cancer plan, November 2015
- MEPs against Cancer 10-year anniversary, December 2015
- Skin cancer and sunbeds, March 2016
- Skin cancer awareness day 2016, March 2016

Participation in external events

MEPs frequently represent the MAC group in external events to speak on their expertise of cancer policy. The MEPs against Cancer group was represented at the European Commission 30 year anniversary of cancer policy in 2015 by MAC President Alojz Peterle.



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Section 3: About ECL

About ECL and its Activities

The vision of Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) is for a Europe Free of Cancers. The role of ECL is to facilitate the collaboration between cancer leagues throughout Europe and to influence EU and pan-European policies. The mission of the Association of European Cancer Leagues is to influence and improve cancer control and cancer care in Europe through collaboration between its members in their fight against cancer, and to influence EU and pan-European policies.

ECL Strategic Goals 2014-2018

- **Goal 1 Influence cancer control policies**
Maintain and strengthen ECL's position in influencing EU and pan-European cancer prevention and control policies.
- **Goal 2 Promote cancer prevention**
Promote cancer prevention for all those living in Europe in order to reduce the incidence of cancer.
- **Goal 3 Encourage access to cancer screening**
Enhance access to scientifically proven effective and quality controlled cancer screening programmes in accordance with EU guidelines and best international evidence.
- **Goal 4 Ensure access to treatment and support**
Promote the rights of cancer patients by addressing inequalities and improving access to evidence-based diagnostics, treatment, follow up, and all aspects of support.
- **Goal 5 Support the development and implementation of national cancer control programmes and cancer registries**
Work for and support the development and implementation of national cancer control plans and programmes in all European countries.

Areas of Work

The major fields of activity for the member cancer leagues include cancer prevention, public information, professional education and assistance, as well as information services and rehabilitation for patients and their families and relatives, participation in, and support for, cancer research and advocacy and awareness campaigns.

ECL and its members are the main organisations responsible for disseminating the European Code Against Cancer, an initiative of the European Commission to inform people about actions they can take for themselves or their families to reduce their risk of cancer.



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MAC Secretariat

ECL provides the Secretariat for the MEPs against Cancer group. The nature of this support can be any, or all, of the following:

- Strategic and independent advice to MEPs on matters of cancer policy, based on ECL expertise or that of its member organisations.
- Meeting/Roundtable/Event organisation
- Identify and suggest collaborative NGO partners on common themes
- Providing input on suggested agenda items, contacting speakers, organising timing
- Preparing briefing materials for meeting speakers and participants
- Provision of logistical support including participant registration, printing meeting documents, collection of speaker presentations and general speaker and participant contact point/liaison.
- Develop social media content for Twitter account @MAC MEPs and Facebook page MEPs against Cancer, in advance, during, and after MAC meetings.
- Develop meeting report and publish on dedicated MAC section on the ECL website
- Promotion of meeting report and publishing stakeholder presentations after the meeting as a resource on ECL website.
- Responding to ad hoc requests as necessary

A collaborative approach

The MAC group functions in an open and collaborative manner. The group is willing to collaborate with groups who share strategic goals and objectives. This extends to Parliamentary groups, political institution, academic institutions civil society organisations, medical organisations, or other organisation committed to the reduction of cancer incidence in Europe.

In accordance with the World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Article 5.3, the tobacco industry or its representatives will not be involved in any aspect of the work of the MAC group.

Financial information relating to MAC

Financial support for the organisation of meetings at the Parliament shall be drawn from the general ECL budget. ECL is co-financed by the Third Health Programme of the European Union, via an operating grant (number 671365). Where a meeting is held in collaboration with another organisation, the costs are usually split between the organisations.



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Section 4: MAC membership

The MAC group shall be open to all MEPs political parties who are interested in developing supportive public health policy and projects which aim to reduce cancer incidence. The Group shall have a Chair and Vice-Chairs where the terms of office shall coincide with the length of the mandate of the current legislative period. The Chair and Vice-Chairs will lead the work and promotion of the group. The MAC group shall hold a minimum of 3 meetings per year. The work of the Group and Chairs shall be supported by the ECL Secretariat in the manners outlined above.

Membership expansion

The ECL Secretariat will promote MAC and engage interested MEPs when and where ever possible. The ECL Secretariat will be conscious to ensure appropriate representation from all EU member states and all political parties. The ECL Secretariat will liaise closely with MEPs to ensure issues of relevance to their national realities are discussed in the MAC forum, to facilitate the exchange of best practices between EU member states. The ECL Secretariat shall encourage its member leagues to engage with their national representatives, and encourage discourse in issues of national relevance.

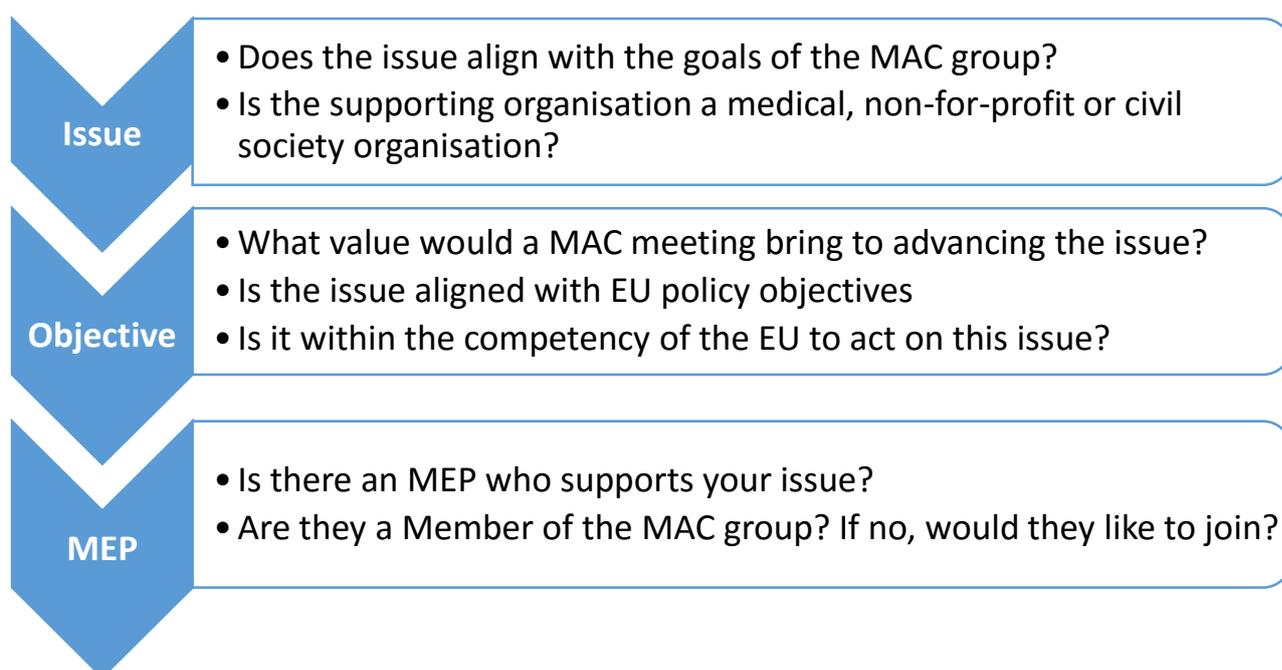
MAC MEPs are encouraged, in as far as possible, to participate in a 'MAC Ambassador' structure, where they will represent MAC in their national Governments and encourage the establishment of a MAC group at National level.



Section 5: Planning a MAC meeting

It is our aim that MAC meetings are aligned with EU policy priorities and have a clear objective. MAC meetings can also aim to raise awareness and facilitate dialogue, where the issue being discussed has relevance to the EU policy agenda and has the support/backing of an MEP.

The decision-making process for developing a MAC meeting



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Case study 1

Best practice example: Skin Cancer Awareness Day

Each year in Brussels, the MAC group sponsor a series of events in the European Parliament to raise awareness of skin cancer amongst European decision-makers.

This activity includes a high level policy debate linking skin cancer awareness to the European policy agenda; and free skin checks for Members of the European Parliament and Parliament staff provided by representatives of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV).



A common theme that runs throughout the skin cancer awareness day each year is the need for more targeted policy action on decreasing the burden of skin cancer in Europe, through more effective primary and secondary prevention strategies.

The events bring together speakers from the European Parliament, European Commission and the WHO, with representatives of European worker's federations, national experts and the scientific community.

Each year, the event is sponsored by the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) and the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV).



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Case Study 2

Best practice example: Launch of the 4th Revision of the European Code against Cancer

On 10th December 2014, the MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) group hosted the first MAC meeting of the Eighth Legislature in the European Parliament to discuss the freshly launched 4th Edition of the European Code Against Cancer. The Code was developed by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the branch of the WHO dedicated to cancer research, and supported by the European Commission. The event was hosted by the MAC president, Mr Alojz Peterle MEP (EPP, Slovenia) and attended by MAC Vice Presidents Nessa Childers, Pavel Poc, and Charles Tannock, and MAC members Biljana Borzan, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Seán Kelly, and Christel Schaldemose.

Dr Lawrence Von Karsa of the International Agency for Research on Cancer presented the development of the new Code, which brought together scientific experts from all over Europe in order to integrate the latest the latest scientific findings in twelve simple lifestyle messages.



Mr Michael Hübel presented the role of the European Commission in cancer policy, a work stream which celebrates 30 years in 2015.

Dr Witold Zatonski presented ways in which the Polish Cancer Centre have adapted the code to their national context, targeting different age groups and emphasising the importance of prevention. This proved to be a valuable national example of best practice, shared at EU level.

This meeting paved the way for ECL's work on the European Code against Cancer.



Annex

List of MAC members including political group and country representation*

*as of April 2016

1. Alojz Peterle (EPP, Slovenia) – MAC President
2. Nessa Childers (S&D, Ireland) – MAC Vice President
3. Pavel Poc (S&D, Czech Republic) – MAC Vice President
4. Charles Tannock (ECR, United Kingdom) – MAC Vice President
5. Ivo Belet (EPP, Belgium)
6. Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL, Ireland)
7. Biljana Borzan (S&D, Croatia)
8. Christian Busoi (EPP, Romania)
9. Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL, Ireland)
10. Deirdre Clune (EPP, Ireland)
11. Therese Comodini Cachia (EPP, Malta)
12. Miriam Dalli (S&D, Malta)
13. Jose Ignacio Faria (ALDE, Portugal)
14. Lorenzo Fontana (Non Attached, Italy)
15. Lidia Joanna Geringer de Odenberg (S&D, Poland)
16. Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE, France)
17. Theresa Griffin (S&D, UK)
18. Françoise Grossetête (EPP, France)
19. Marian Harkin (ALDE, Ireland)
20. Brian Hayes (EPP, Ireland)
21. Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE, Finland)
22. Karin Kadenbach (S&D, Austria)
23. Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland)
24. Andrey Kovatchev (EPP, Bulgaria)
25. Miroslav Mikolášik (EPP, Slovakia)
26. Piernicola Pedicini (EFDD, Italy)
27. Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland)
28. Michèle Rivasi (Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, France)
29. Christel Schaldemose (S&D, Denmark)
30. Lidia Senra Rodriguez (GUE/NGL, Spain)
31. Jutta Steinruck (S&D, Germany)
32. Dubravka Šuica (EPP, Croatia)
33. Tibor Szanui (S&D, Hungary)
34. Glenis Willmott (S&D, United Kingdom)



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