

The logo consists of a stylized blue graphic on the left, resembling a DNA double helix or a network of interconnected lines, and the text 'MEPs AGAINST CANCER' on the right. 'MEPs' is in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font, and 'AGAINST CANCER' is in a smaller, blue sans-serif font below it.

# MEPs AGAINST CANCER



## ROADMAP 2019-24



Co-funded by  
the Health Programme  
of the European Union

## About the Roadmap

The purpose of this document is to outline the objectives and set operational rules related to the [MEPs Against Cancer \(MAC\) Interest Group](#) in the 2019-24 mandate.

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## I. About the MEPs Against Cancer

The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group was founded in 2005 by a group of committed MEPs for MEPs. MAC remains the largest and oldest (and until 2020 the only) group dedicated to cancer policy at the [European Parliament \(EP\)](#). [MAC members](#) come from different political groups and countries, and work together to improve cancer control and prevention in Europe. MAC members share a deep conviction that European cooperation adds value to Member States' action.

## II. Objectives for the 2019 – 2024 legislative term of the European Parliament

In the 2019-24 legislative term, the MAC Interest Group will give feedback to the European Commission about the structure and implementation of [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) and related legislation and activities, including the [Mission on Cancer under the Horizon Europe programme](#).

In all activities undertaken, MAC MEPs will focus on the below principles:

- ✓ **Promote the [Health in All Policies \(HiAP\)](#) approach** – all MAC MEPs will ensure that work done in their respective committees ultimately improves the well-being of European citizens (by e.g., advocating for an environment, food system, and workplace free of carcinogens).

- ✓ **Reducing inequalities in Europe** – MAC members will strive to put the spotlight on and close the gap between and within Member States in access to prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, and patient services.
- ✓ **Ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, especially patients, in EU decision-making processes** – MAC members will strive to consult patients, survivors, healthcare professionals, and public health NGOs while discussing legislative developments related to Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and other cancer and health-related activities.
- ✓ **Elevating cross-border cooperation** – MAC members will have an open dialogue with the European Commission and the Council of the EU, as well as encourage Member States to work more closely on areas where national action is insufficient (e.g., Health Technology Assessment (HTA), ensuring that data collection (from cancer registries to genomic banks) respects patients’ rights).

The MAC Interest Group will use the [2019 European Elections Manifesto ‘Beating Cancer: Mission Possible’](#) as reference for its activities.

### III. MAC Governance

In October 2019, members of the MAC Interest Group elected the leadership of the Group for the 2019-24 legislature. The MAC’s leadership is composed of 2 Chairs and 2 Vice-Chairs:

- *Chair:* Dr. [Véronique Trillet-Lenoir](#) (RE, France)
- *Chair:* Mr. [Loucas Furlas](#) (EPP, Cyprus)
- *Vice-Chair:* Ms. [Tilly Metz](#) (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg) as of October 2020; Dr. [Petra de Sutter](#) (Greens/EFA, Belgium) until October 2020;
- *Vice-Chair:* Dr. [Sara Cerdas](#) (S&D, Portugal) as of October 2020; Ms. [Miriam Dalli](#) (S&D, Malta) between February and October 2020; Mr. [Rory Palmer](#) (S&D, United Kingdom) until January 2020.

*\*In the event of one of the above Co-Chairs no longer being an MEP, the MAC Secretariat will follow up with MAC members of the appropriate political group to find a replacement.*

Elected Co-Chairs are encouraged to (i) represent the MAC Group at meetings and events, and (ii) act as points of contact for their MEP colleagues and other EU institution’s officials.

### IV. MAC Membership

As of April 2021, the MAC Group has 124 members coming from 24 EU Member States and 7 political groups.

The list of all MAC members is available [here](#).

The MAC Group’s membership is open to Members of the European Parliament serving in the ninth term (2019–2024) only.

To become a member of the MAC Interest Group, MEPs can:

- a. Write an email to [linda@europeancancerleagues.org](mailto:linda@europeancancerleagues.org); or
- b. Fill in the online application form: <https://forms.gle/o5E67tn54srfzbc26>

Membership in the MAC Interest Group will be terminated when:

- a. Members are no longer serving as MEPs; or
- b. Members have ties to the tobacco industry; or
- c. Members are associated with non-scientific movements (e.g., anti-vaccination).

## V. MAC Secretariat – the Association of European Cancer Leagues

The MAC Interest Group receives secretarial support from the [Association of European Cancer Leagues \(ECL\)](#).

ECL is a Brussels-based, non-profit, pan-European organisation that unites, supports and represents cancer leagues across the WHO European region. ECL provides a voice and forum for cancer leagues to collaborate and share knowledge, primarily in the areas of cancer prevention, tobacco control, access to medicines and patient support, and create opportunities to advocate for these issues at the EU level and beyond.

VISION: A Europe free of cancers

MISSION: To advocate for improved cancer control and care in Europe through facilitating collaboration between cancer leagues and influencing EU and pan-European policies.

ECL members are cancer societies operating across the whole cancer continuum and patient pathway. Cancer leagues are the main resource for the public for cancer control information and services. From Iceland to Israel, cancer leagues contribute to preventing and fighting cancer by, amongst other things, raising awareness and educating people about cancer, investing in research and providing support to cancer patients and their families during and after treatment. ECL's member leagues together employ more than 8,000 people and over 300,000 volunteers. They spend more than €750 million every year to fight cancer and represent over 570 million citizens.

For further information about ECL and its members, please check our [Members Booklet](#).

### Support by the Secretariat:

- ✓ Provide independent advice to MEPs on matters related to EU cancer policy, using ECL's expertise or that of its member organisations (eg. EP questions, amendments, etc.)
- ✓ Organise meetings (internal and official stakeholder events – as per below)
- ✓ Identify and suggest experts (for meetings, to provide amendments to reports etc.)
- ✓ Update and populate the MAC webpages and social media channels (details below)
- ✓ Regularly inform MAC MEPs about planned activities of the Interest Group

## VI. MAC Meetings

### i. **Internal Meetings**

Each year, in November or December, the MAC Secretariat and the Co-Chairs organise an internal meeting (restricted to MAC MEPs and their assistants). During this meeting, Members will evaluate past activities, and discuss the Action Plan for the following year. The annual Action Plan will be distributed to MAC members within 30 days from the date of the internal meeting.

In addition to the annual internal meeting, MAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs will meet with the ECL Secretariat three times per year.

### ii. **Official Stakeholders' Meetings**

Every year, the MAC Secretariat, together with various MAC members organises up to three meetings open to stakeholders. The meetings' topics will be proposed during the annual internal meeting and included in the annual Action Plan of the MAC Interest Group.

The MAC Secretariat, in consultation with MAC Chairs and Vice-Chair, will ensure appropriate MAC members are involved as hosts and speakers (based on the priorities submitted via their application form and mentioned in individual meetings with the Secretariat). The Secretariat, together with hosting MEPs, is responsible for inviting relevant experts to the stakeholders' meetings, both as speakers and participants. MAC members will receive a meeting report containing policy recommendations related to the topic(s) discussed within 30 days from the date of the event.

Responsibilities for meeting organisation will be distributed as follows:

- **Hosting MEP's office**
  - ✓ Securing booking of the meeting room
  - ✓ Ensuring technical equipment is in place
  - ✓ Requesting translation services (if necessary)
  - ✓ Order catering (if requested)
  - ✓ Print name tags for speakers
  - ✓ Providing 1-day badges to registered participants
  
- **MAC Secretariat**
  - ✓ Draft meeting agenda
  - ✓ Invite speakers
  - ✓ Invite external participants
  - ✓ Collect registrations
  - ✓ Collect speakers' presentations
  - ✓ Provide speaking points to hosts (if requested)
  - ✓ Print agendas
  - ✓ Bring materials (eg. banner, pens, badges)

- ✓ Send 'thank you' emails to participants with a report (no more than 30 days after the event)

➤ **Both Host and Secretariat**

- ✓ Sending invitations to MEPs
- ✓ Send reminders to participants to register
- ✓ Promote event on social media

**iii. Associated Events**

When a MAC member hosts an event related to cancer, he/she can ask the MAC Secretariat to use the MAC logo and have the event endorsed by the Interest Group.

The MAC Secretariat will check the agenda to ensure that:

- i. the event's topic and content are in line with the MAC's priorities and views;
- ii. the event's objectives and content are free of any control of a commercial supporter;
- iii. representatives of the tobacco industry are not involved in the event.

When an event or meeting is held in collaboration with another organisation, the costs of meetings (e.g., for catering) can be shared between the organisations. To maintain independence, the MAC Interest Group shall not receive any contributions from industry companies and associations.

The MAC Interest Group is open to collaborate with stakeholders who share its objectives, including other parliamentary groups, political institutions, academic institutions, civil society organisations, medical organisations, or other organisations committed to reducing the cancer burden in Europe and beyond.

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 Interest Group.

## VII. Communications & Contacts

### Contact MAC Secretariat

- Linda Abdelall, MAC Policy & Coordination  
[linda@europeanleague.org](mailto:linda@europeanleague.org) | +32 487 86 44 62
- Ginevra Papi, MAC Communications  
[Gina@europeanleague.org](mailto:Gina@europeanleague.org)
- ECL Secretariat, general queries  
[ECL@europeanleague.org](mailto:ECL@europeanleague.org)

## Website

- ECL [www.cancer.eu](http://www.cancer.eu)
- MAC [www.MEPsAgainstCancer.eu](http://www.MEPsAgainstCancer.eu)
  - About MEPs Against Cancer
  - Join MAC
  - MAC MEPs
  - MAC 2019 Manifesto
  - MAC Events

## Twitter

- [@MAC MEPs](https://twitter.com/MAC_MEPs)
  - #MissionPossible
  - *If you wish to be re-tweeted, please tag the MAC MEPs account*
- [@CancerLeagues](https://twitter.com/CancerLeagues)

## Facebook

- [@MEPsAgainstCancer](https://www.facebook.com/MEPsAgainstCancer)
  - #MissionPossible
  - *If you wish to be re-posted, please tag the MAC MEPs account*
- [@CancerLeagues](https://www.facebook.com/CancerLeagues)

## VIII. Transparency statement

The MAC Secretariat, the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) is listed in the Transparency Register (number: 19265592757-25).

Financial support for the coordination of the MAC Interest Group comes from ECL's budget. ECL is independent of any commercial interest and political party. ECL's income primarily comes from membership fees, EU-funded projects and joint actions. Since 2014, ECL has been co-financed by the Third Health Programme of the European Union via an operating grant. The current grant agreement is valid until the end of 2021.