

New leadership of MEPs Against Cancer in the 2019-24 mandate

The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) interest group at the European Parliament is pleased to announce new leadership elected for the 2019-24 parliamentary legislature.

MEPs Prof. Véronique Trillet-Lenoir (RE, France) and Mr. Loucas Fourlas (EPP, Cyprus) are the new Chairs of the MAC Group. MEPs Mr. Rory Palmer (S&D, United Kingdom) and Dr. Petra De Sutter (Greens/EFA, Belgium) are the new Vice-Chairs. Together with the secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), they will lead the group which currently consists of 137 members.



MEP Véronique Trillet-Lenoir stated: *'For more than 30 years, I have dedicated my work as a University Professor and Public Service Medical Doctor to the fight against cancer, the leading cause of death in Europe and a subject of great suffering for millions of citizens. I am therefore very proud to become Chair of the MAC Group.'*

The 4 million people affected in Europe need a European strategy against cancer to promote and support efforts to improve prevention, research, access to innovation and reintegration and reduce health inequalities among citizens. At the European level, we have to guarantee access to the most innovative medicines without shortage, and at a fair price, to mobilize more research teams on ambitious programs for the Cancer Horizon Europe Mission and to fight against rare cancers and in particular paediatric cancers that still kill 6000 children per year. With my experience, I am ready to commit in this program and mobilize Members of the European Parliament as well as all stakeholders, particularly patients' representatives, around this noble cause for Europe.'



MEP Loucas Fourlas said: *'It is a great honour for me to be elected as a Chair of this group, which is the only dedicated group on cancer policy in the European Parliament at this moment. My vision was realized with the signing of the Manifesto Against Cancer, which aims to formulate policies with key pillars of activity prevention, ensuring high quality treatment for all patients and involvement of them in formulating Health policies.'*

My participation in this group today is a statement of my intention to work with all my strengths on cancer issues with a particular emphasis on paediatric oncology and paediatric palliative care. I am seeking to claim as much funding as possible for the development of strategic partnerships, innovative methods and tools that will effectively and working all together to reach our goals as a real team consisted of a big number of dedicated MEPs from all the political groups of the European Parliament.'



MEP Rory Palmer stated: *'MEPs Against Cancer has a strong reputation as an effective campaigning network influencing cancer policy since 2005 and I am honoured to be elected as its Vice-Chair. The EU has a vital role to play to tackle the outstanding challenges in cancer care, treatment and research, and this group is a perfect example of this - as cooperation and sharing best practices is the cornerstone of progress.'*

Therefore, I look forward to working together with MEPs, cancer campaign groups, patients groups as well as the cancer research community to set an ambitious agenda on the Beating Cancer Plan for Europe. As MEPs, on behalf of citizens, we must push the Commission to ensure this plan is ambitious and genuinely ground-breaking. We must seize this opportunity to move forward in tackling cancer and see cancer rates falling in Europe.'



MEP Petra de Sutter said: *'I am honoured to be elected as a vice-chair of MEPs Against Cancer. The EU should deepen cooperation, improve treatment, fight inequalities in access to care and increase investment in cancer research. In addition, the EU should also become much more active on prevention by better regulating harmful substances. I look forward to work together with MEPs from all political groups to fight against cancer as well as the causes of cancer.'*



Dr. Sakari Karjalainen, President of the Association of European Cancer Leagues added: *'We are thrilled to have such a strong support for cancer policy in the new mandate.'*

We are looking forward to work together with so many dedicated policy-makers from different political parties and Member States to ensure the European Beating Cancer Plan will contribute to closing the gaps in access to prevention, treatments and quality cancer care between Member States and brings significant benefits to patients and society as a whole.'

Notes for Editors

1. The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group was founded in 2005 by a group of MEPs at the European Parliament (EP), and remains the only group dedicated to cancer policy at the EP. MAC members come from different political groups and EU Member States and work together to strengthen cancer control policies, promote cancer prevention and ensure access to high quality treatments and care for cancer patients in Europe. MAC believe that European cooperation adds value to Member States' action.
2. More information about MAC. / Follow @MAC_MEPs on Twitter
3. Beating Cancer: Mission Possible – MAC Group's 2019 Manifesto.
4. More information about MEP Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, MEP Loucas Fourlas, MEP Rory Palmer and MEP Petra de Sutter.
5. Members of MEPs Against Cancer.
6. More information about the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), Secretariat of the MAC Group.