The MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) Interest Group was founded in 2005 and remains the only group dedicated to cancer policy at the European Parliament. MAC come from different political groups and countries and work together to strengthen cancer control policies, promote cancer prevention, ensure access to high quality treatments and care for cancer patients in Europe. MAC believe that European cooperation adds value to Member States’ action.

What does the MAC Group aim to achieve in the 2019-24 legislature?

On the World Cancer Day, 2 February 2019, the MAC Group published its elections manifesto called 'BEATING CANCER: MISSION POSSIBLE: Towards effective cancer control in Europe'. In the manifesto the Group identifies key objectives which shall be addressed in the 2019-24 mandate. Activities undertaken by the group shall contribute to reaching the set objectives.

Why should I join MAC?

I. VISIBILITY - MEPs Active in the MAC Group are often approached to speak in public meetings and conferences about the issue and get greater attention from press and stakeholders active in healthcare.

II. KNOWLEDGE - Members of MAC get evidence-based knowledge support from the secretariat upon request and first hand access to materials relevant to ongoing health/cancer related policy issues discussed at both the European and national level.

III. NETWORK - MAC members build strong relationships with civil society, patient organisation, healthcare professionals, researchers and other stakeholders throughout the mandate. They have opportunities to meet other MEPs, Commission officials and decision-makers and to build partnerships in order to fulfill their mission - beating cancer.

How does the MAC Group work?

MAC receives secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a Brussels-based NGO representing national and regional cancer societies (transparency register: 19265592757-25). MAC’s activities are co-funded by the Operating Grant of the EU Health Programme.

MAC meet on average four times per year with external stakeholders. Topics of meetings are announced in advance. A meeting report with outcomes is sent within 30 days after each meeting. All meetings are organised in cooperation with credible non-profit organisations. Participation in meetings and other MAC activities is individual, depending on MEPs' interests and agendas. Regular participation is highly appreciated and awarded by increased visibility of the MEP's work.

Internal MAC meetings for MEPs and APAs take place each year to discuss objectives, achievement and past and upcoming meetings. The first annual meeting will take place in November 2019, where the appointment of MAC President and Vice-Presidents will take place. MAC President and three Vice-Presidents coming from different countries and political groups are elected for the 5 year term.

How can I become a member of MAC?

To become a member or find out more information about the MAC Group, please send an email to Anna@europeancancerleagues.org and she will guide you through the process. We will also ask you to fill a short application form. We look forward to working together to make beating cancer #MissionPossible!