

# BEATING CANCER: MISSION POSSIBLE

## TOWARDS EFFECTIVE CANCER CONTROL IN EUROPE

### Press Conference



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**#VoteAgainstCancer**  
**#Mission Possible**  
**@MAC\_MEPs**

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## Launch of MEPs Against Cancer 2019 European Elections Manifesto

**Brussels, Belgium – Today MEPs Against Cancer (MAC) hosted a press conference presenting their 2019 European Elections Manifesto “Beating Cancer: Mission Possible. Towards effective cancer control in Europe”.**

In the future fight against cancer at both the EU and national levels in the next legislature of the European Parliament, MAC members aim to focus on three key areas: cancer prevention as a key to sustainable cancer control; development of and access to high quality treatments; and increased role of patients in health policy decisions.

The current MAC President, MEP Alojz Peterle (EPP, Slovenia), presented an overview of the manifesto and introduced its first section concentrating on the importance of investment in primary cancer prevention to further promote healthy lifestyles.

*“In the next mandate, it will be crucial to continue bridging the fight against cancer at the European and national level. We shall use the opportunity to share best practices, improve policy and learn from each other, for the full benefit of all European patients, disregarding their country of origin.” Peterle said.*

Then, MAC Vice-President, **MEP Pavel Poc** (S&D, Czech Republic), welcomed a newly expanded focus on environmental health and its relation to cancer, including fundamental calls to actions regarding, air pollution and carcinogens. He went on, concentrating on cancer screening and the importance of embedding such preventative actions along with a continuum of quality cancer care. Next, **MEP Lieve Wiernick** (ALDE, Belgium) moved on to address cancer research and European collaboration in bringing real innovation to patients, stressing the need to integrate quality of life indicators as primary endpoints in clinical studies. Later, **MEP José Inácio Faria** (EPP, Portugal) carried on by focusing on access to medicines, particularly from the perspective of affordability and accessibility in different parts of the EU. Finally, **MEP Dubravka Šuica** (EPP, Croatia) concluded with an emphasis on the need to integrate quality of life issues, such as psychosocial and palliative care in the care pathway, as well as strengthening the voice of patients in health decisions.

*“Without support from all levels of political leadership, from local to European, we will not be able to successfully fight this disease. Everyone has to contribute in our common fight against cancer because cancer does not choose its victims based on their national, political, religious or any other affiliation.” Šuica concluded.*

MAC group representatives, if re-elected, will stay committed to push cancer high on the agenda for the upcoming legislature, in order to make the path towards effective cancer control in Europe a possible mission.



MAC is the only cancer focused interest group at the European Parliament and has worked since 2005 to improve cancer control and prevention in Europe with a strong belief that European cooperation adds crucial value to Member States' actions. The Group receives secretarial support from the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), a Brussels based non-profit organization which represents national and regional cancer societies across Europe. You follow @MAC\_MEPs and @CancerLeagues on Twitter and also reach us online at [www.mepsagaincancer.eu](http://www.mepsagaincancer.eu) // [www.cancer.eu](http://www.cancer.eu).