

EU's Beating Cancer Plan

Every year, 3.5 million people in the EU are diagnosed with cancer, and 1.3 million die from it. Over 40% of cancer cases are preventable. Without reversing current trends, it could become the leading cause of death in the EU. Europe's beating cancer plan aims to reduce the cancer burden for patients, their families and health systems. It will address cancer related inequalities between and within Member States with actions to support, coordinate and complement Member States' efforts.

The European Commission published a roadmap for its Beating Cancer Plan and a number of different organisations submitted feedback, including the ETUC, EBN, SIFO and EAHP whose responses are attached. The roadmap acknowledges that there is a continuing problem with occupational exposure to cancer and the need for more preventive measures. The Commission stated in the roadmap that:

'In addition to existing regulatory frameworks on chemicals and occupational health, interventions could also explore further legislative and soft measures to reduce exposure to carcinogenic substances in the workplace'

Cancer is now the leading cause of work-related deaths in the EU with over 100,000 cancer deaths each year. From nurses to cleaners, workers and patients across the EU are being put at risk by being exposed to deadly carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances in their place of work.

The Commission has an online questionnaire which is open to 7 May 2020, and the adoption of the Beating Cancer Plan is scheduled for the Fourth Quarter of 2020.