

September 2020

Parliament's research capacities within the Directorates-General for Parliamentary Research Services (EPRS), Internal Policies (IPOL) and External Policies (EXPO) stand ready to support the work of the new Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) and its Members. This selection of publications and online resources has been prepared for BECA's constituent meeting.

Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer

Study coordinated by Zsuzsanna Laky and Christian Kurrer, June 2020

This study provides an overview of the current state-of-play in Europe in respect of the fight against cancer. It focuses in particular on four main areas: causation of cancer; cancer screening and early diagnosis; access to cancer treatment, care and research; and rare and childhood cancers. It provides key findings and recommendations in each of these areas.

Europe's Beating Cancer plan: Launch of an EU-wide debate - EN - DE - FR - PL

'At a glance' note by Nicole Scholz, February 2020

This note provides initial elements of the Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer plan and summarises how Parliament has supported cancer-related policies in previous parliamentary terms.

A pharmaceutical strategy for Europe: First steps

'At a glance' note by Nicole Scholz, June 2020

On 1 June 2020, the European Commission published a roadmap for a pharmaceutical strategy for Europe. The strategy will have the overall goal of ensuring Europe's supply of safe and affordable medicines and supporting the European pharmaceutical industry's innovation efforts. Two consultations (on the roadmap and the strategy, respectively), are currently under way. Adoption of the strategy is envisaged in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Cancer prevention: Modifiable risk factors

Briefing by Zsuzsanna Laky, April 2020

This briefing summarises the presentations that were delivered by experts who participated in the workshop on cancer prevention, focussing on modifiable risk factors, in February 2020. The presentations included an overview of current knowledge and main challenges and dealt with prevention in practice (focusing on digestive cancers), eliminating HPV-caused cancers as a public health problem, and understanding modifiable risk factors in paediatric oncology.

Treatment optimisation in drug development

Study coordinated by Gianluca Quaglio, March 2020

In this qualitative research study, semi-structured interviews were performed with 26 experts across five stakeholder groups and 10 different EU Member States. The results offer an overview of the concept of treatment optimisation, including in relation to anti-cancer medicines.

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[Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work](#)

[Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work: Second proposal](#)

[Limits on exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work: Third proposal](#)

EU Legislation in progress briefings by Nicole Scholz, 2018 and 2019

The European Commission proposed to amend Directive 2004/37/EC in three steps, expanding its scope by including and/or revising occupational exposure limit values for a number of cancer- or mutation-causing substances. The first proposal covered 13 priority chemical agents, and the corresponding Directive (EU) 2017/2398 had to be transposed into national law by 17 January 2020. The second proposal covered a further seven chemical agents, and corresponding Directive (EU) 2019/130 entered into force on 20 February 2019 and is to be transposed into national law by 20 February 2021 at the latest. The third proposal addressed an additional five substances. The corresponding Directive (EU) 2019/983 entered into force on 10 July 2019 and is to be transposed into national law within two years, by 11 July 2021.

[Mobile phones and health: Where do we stand? - EN - FR](#)

Briefing by Nicole Scholz, March 2019

There is a vast body of research on the possibility of a link between mobile phone radiation and health problems, including on the potential risk of cancer. This Briefing provides an overview of the research landscape, major studies on the health effects of mobile phones and conclusions of international and European expert bodies.

[What if manmade biological organisms could help treat cancer?](#)

'At a glance' note by Mihalís Kritikos, September 2017

Synthetic biology is expected to begin to design, construct and develop artificial (i.e. manmade) biological systems that mimic or even go beyond naturally occurring biological systems. Applications of synthetic biology in the healthcare domain hold great promise, but also raise a number of questions. What are the benefits and challenges of this emerging field? What ethical and social issues arise from this engineering approach to biology?

Further reading

[Chernobyl 30 years on: Environmental and health effects](#), Briefing by Didier Bourguignon and Nicole Scholz, April 2016

[Can processed and red meat cause cancer? The World Health Organization's classification raises concerns](#), 'At a glance' note by Nicole Scholz, October 2015

Further online resources

What Europe does for me: [Cancer patients](#), [Protecting workers from cancer-causing chemicals](#), [Protecting workers from carcinogenic chemicals](#)

European Science-Media Hub (ESMH): [Misinformation in science: how false medical news on social media mis-educates our society](#), [EU project: CLARIFY](#), [EU project: MAMMO1](#)

Upcoming publications

What if human cells could be regenerated to renew our bodies?

'At a glance' note by Gianluca Quaglio, September/October 2020

Health impact of 5G

Study coordinated by Gianluca Quaglio, October/November 2020

You can access this Topical Digest at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/TD_BECA_2020_final.pdf
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