



Members of the MEPs Against Cancer Group
European Parliament, Brussels

Brussels, 14th May 2019

Dear Members of the MEPs Against Cancer Group,

The European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP), and our other partner healthcare professional organisations, extend our personal gratitude to the important work you carried out in the European Parliament mandate 2014-2019 protecting the public interest, and promoting the need for EU attention to cancer policy.

In expressing our gratitude and best wishes for the weeks ahead, we also congratulate you for the excellent MAC manifesto initiative, which we have been pleased to endorse.

Amongst the many items we were pleased to note in the document, includes a call for *“Tackling exposure to carcinogen, mutagen and reprotoxic (CMR) substances in both workplaces and the wider population”*.

On this point, we draw your attention to significant amendments to the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive that were achieved by the European Parliament recently. These will require the European Commission to conduct a study into the safety of healthcare professionals in Europe in respect to cytotoxic exposure, and for the conclusions to be published within a 12 month timeframe¹.

Whilst this commitment is very good news, we hope to work with interested MEPs, such as the MAC Group, when the Parliament returns, in order to ensure that that study is conducted transparently, independently, takes account of all available evidence, and considers fully all of the potential measures that may reduce risk.

We look forward to being in communication again after May, and trust we might rely upon your support for scrutiny activity on this topic in the year ahead. Our warmest thanks again for always putting the combat of cancer at the top of your priorities.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Klaus Meier, President of the European Society of Oncology Pharmacy (ESOP) and Chairman of the Oncopolicy Committee of the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO).

¹ More information here: <https://www.ecco-org.eu/Global/News/Latest-News/2019/04/NEWS-European-Parliament-protects-healthcare-professionals-in-the-cancer-sector>