

# EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY PHARMACY

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European Commission  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
Charlotte Grevfors Ernoult  
Unit B/3/Health and Safety  
EUFO 2184, L-2920 Luxembourg

Hamburg, 16th March 2020

Dear Mrs.Grevfors Ernoult, dear Sirs

First of all, I wanted to point out that ESOP, like all European health professionals and scientific societies is involved in the fight against COVID, and we know that cancer patients are a particularly fragile population with regard to this virus.

This priority issue must not evade other ongoing actions in the interests of the cancer patients and health professionals

I am writing to you today out of fear that the efforts made by independent experts, professional societies and, ultimately, the Members of the European Parliament to prevent harm to people working in the health sector and, above all, to the well-being of the community, could be reversing:

- Since its foundation, the ESOP has pursued the goal of providing cancer patients with the best support and averting damage to the common good by taking precautions.

- Since then, we have been carrying out investigations to protect those who deal with cancer drugs and have published the Quality Standard for Pharmacy Oncology Service (QuapoS) with 4-year revisions for clarification and uniform feasibility.

- The EU Parliament then decided in May 2019 based on our urgent submissions to take a closer look at the area of hazardous substances, in particular cytostatics. This is also due to the fact that relevant companies are increasingly trying to deny safety in dealing with cytostatic agents by means of coordinated processes and instead propagate the use of disproportionately more faithful plastic products to the detriment of the economy.

- In December 2019 we were happy to learn about the tender for this process and finally to bring the voice of reason and science to bear. Unfortunately, we learned that the person who has become the scientific advisor to the operating company COWI is someone with very strong financial ties to the industries promoting dubious solutions. This naturally jeopardizes the objectivity of the whole project. In contrast, the universities of Brno (Czech), Munich (D), Duisburg (D) and Lyon (F), who have performed extensive and independent scientific research in the area of occupational exposure to CMR drugs, have been left out of the project. We don't want to go unmentioned that we as ESOP have contributed through the MASHA study since 5 years as well a massive independent effort in this field.

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- Neither the investigation nor the framework conditions guarantee a valid result in this case. We have placed our hope on comprehensive advice in 5 countries and on the closing event in Luxembourg, in which we hope to bring reality and its scientific underpinnings to bear.

- This broad knowledge acquisition and comprehensive exchange of knowledge is nullified by the current CORONA crisis, which prohibits the implementation of the planned face-to-face meetings.

We do not want to imagine that this can be in the interest of the EU Commission and therefore call on it to postpone the investigation process after to deal with the current crisis, in an orderly manner and with the necessary time budget to carry out the investigation properly.

We will inform the MEPs to support the postponement.

yours

*Klaus Meier*