

PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENT'S BACKING FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE IS HUGE BOOST FOR SECTOR

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The European Parliament's vote to recognize nuclear medicine is a significant boost for one of Europe's most innovative sectors, and offers new hope for cancer patients, Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEU) says.

The recognition came at the Parliament's plenary meeting in Strasbourg, when MEPs backed an own-initiative opinion on "Strengthening Europe in the fight against cancer – towards a comprehensive and coordinated strategy" (2020/2267). The resolution, drafted by Véronique Trillet-Lenoir for the Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) was adopted with 652 votes in favour, 15 against and 27 abstentions on February 16.

As an industry advisor to the BECA committee, NMEU was consulted in the drafting of the relevant parts of this important resolution. And thanks to key amendments drafted by Pietro Fiocchi, the crucial role of nuclear medicine is specifically mentioned in Article 70, which affirms "nuclear medicine as a fully independent medical specialty, the promotion of training standards, as well as investments in nuclear medicine research."

The resolution welcomes measures in the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, "which will support the security of production capacities and supply of radioisotopes via the replacement of the current ageing fleet and implementation of existing technologies, notably reactors and particles accelerators, through existing financial instruments." It says the quality and safety of radiation technology in medicine should be enhanced, as it is currently not equally available in all EU Member States.

It also calls on the EU to avoid shortages of radioisotopes by facilitating the crossing of borders and exemptions for transportations, and calls for "a more coordinated approach and sustainable funding of the European production capacity of medical isotopes, in order to be self-sufficient in the EU and to provide European patients with diagnosis and innovative treatments of cancer."

NMEU President Antonis Kalemis said the resolution was a welcome commitment by the Parliament to support the most effective tool against cancer. "I am delighted that the European Parliament has given explicit recognition to nuclear medicine and its role in the fight against cancer," he said. "Our industry provides life-saving treatments for cancer across Europe. We use the most advanced technologies to diagnose and remove tumours – and we are improving all the time. This resolution shows that the EU is ready to support our sector and help make nuclear medicine more widely available for anyone who needs it."



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