

PRESS RELEASE

Why MEPs need to back Fiocchi's amendments to the cancer report

Brussels, February 11, 2022

Cancer is the scourge of our time. One in two people in Europe will develop cancer in their lifetime and its burden is growing. In 2021, some 20 million people around the world were diagnosed with cancer, and 10 million died, or nearly one in six deaths.

And yet cancers can be treated. Many can be prevented or cured. And in Europe, we have the tools to do it.

Nuclear medicine is the most effective way to safely and accurately diagnose and certain cases even treat cancers. If we are to beat cancer, we need to use the best possible measures. That means supporting nuclear medicine

On February 15, the European Parliament plenary is scheduled to vote on 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, is an ambitious proposal that builds on the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the crucial needs of patients who are currently in need of timely diagnosis and effective, innovative, accessible and affordable treatments and care.

However, the resolution does not mention nuclear medicine. This is despite Europe leading global research and development in nuclear medicine, and nuclear medicine's record in saving hundreds of thousands of lives over the years. By contrast, the European Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer Plan recognizes nuclear medicine as the safest and most effective way to beat the disease.

To redress the oversight in the European Parliament report, Nuclear Medicine Europe (NMEU) calls on MEPs to vote for the amendments drafted by Pietro Fiocchi that recognize the crucial role of nuclear medicine. Mr Fiocchi's amendments to Citations 18c and 18d; Recitals A, Aa, Ab, Ac, Ad, Ae and Af; Paragraphs 49, 50a, 50b, 167a and 178a underline the importance of nuclear medicine to Europe's future healthcare.

NMEU President Antonis Kalemis appealed to the European Parliament to support the most effective tool against cancer. "We cannot take our health for granted and we cannot ignore the threat from cancer," he said. *"Nuclear medicine is now more precise and powerful than ever as it diagnoses and treats cancer patients. Radiological imaging is essential for early cancer detection, diagnosis and deciding how to treat. By backing these amendments, MEPs will support cancer patients, giving them hope that they can receive the life-saving healthcare they need."*