

CPME Statement on Europe's Cancer Plan

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

CPME believes that prevention is the most cost-effective long-term strategy for cancer control. According to WHO, 30-50% of cancer deaths could be prevented by modifying or avoiding key risk factors and implementing existing evidence-based prevention strategies. These key factors include:

- smoking
- overweight and obesity
- unhealthy diet
- physical inactivity
- excessive use of alcohol
- environmental pollution
- not being vaccinated against hepatitis B and HPV

CPME therefore calls on the EU to:

- revise and strengthen the EU Tobacco Products Directive and recognise that also novel tobacco and nicotine products are harmful
- restrict marketing, including digital marketing, of unhealthy foods and drinks, in particular to young people, e.g. by revising the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)
- introduce European colour-coded front-of-pack nutrition labelling in the Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers
- restrict alcohol marketing and improve alcohol labelling by revising the AVMSD and the Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers
- increase the taxation of tobacco, including novel tobacco and nicotine products, alcohol and unhealthy food and drinks
- update its air quality standards, Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQ) and National Emission Ceilings Directive (NEC), to reflect the WHO recommendations
- promote vaccination strategies to eliminate cancers caused by hepatitis B and HPV
- include a non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention strategy in the cancer plan
- promote cancer screening programs
- use the European Reference Networks (ERN) for cancer research
- ask the Member States to promote healthy lifestyles and to ensure infrastructure and equal possibilities for healthy living for all citizens
- ask the Member States to ensure equal access to diagnostics and treatment