



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 28 July 2010**

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**SAN 159**

**“I/A” ITEM NOTE**

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from: Working party on public health  
to: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council

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Subject: Action against cancer  
- Adoption of Council conclusions

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On 27 July 2010 and following a number of meetings, the Working party on public health agreed on the draft Council conclusions as set out in the Annex.

Subject to confirmation by the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1), the Council is invited to agree on the draft Council conclusions at its meeting on 13 September 2010.

**Draft Council conclusions on action against cancer**

The Council of the European Union

1. RECALLS that under Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Union action is to complement national policies and be directed towards improving public health; it is also to encourage cooperation between the Member States in the field of public health and, if necessary, lend support to their action, and fully respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care;
2. RECALLS the Council conclusions of 10 June 2008 on reducing the burden of cancer;
3. TAKES NOTE of the Commission's Report of 22 December 2008 on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation of 2 December 2003 on cancer screening<sup>1</sup>, that found that much has been done to attain high standards of screening practices across the Union, but that less than half the minimum number of recommended examinations is taking place if the screening tests specified in the Council Recommendation<sup>2</sup> were available to all Union citizens of appropriate age (approximately 125 million examinations per year), and that they are not always carried out within the organisational framework necessary to ensure thorough quality assurance;
4. WELCOMES the Commission Communication of 24 June 2009 on Action Against Cancer: European Partnership<sup>3</sup> to support the Member States in their efforts to tackle cancer by providing a framework for identifying and sharing information, capacity and expertise in cancer prevention and control, and by engaging relevant stakeholders across the Union in a collective effort, and the launch of the European Partnership on 29 September 2009;

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<sup>1</sup> 5021/09

<sup>2</sup> Council Recommendation of 2 December 2003 on cancer screening (2003/878/EC)

<sup>3</sup> 11516/09

5. NOTES that the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (herein after "the Partnership") is set up around four priority areas, namely health promotion and early detection; identification and dissemination of good practice; cooperation and coordination in cancer research; and providing the comparable cancer information and data necessary for policy and action through benchmarking and WELCOMES the Commission's initiative of setting up a Joint Action to take the Partnership forward and the active participation of all Member States in the Joint Action;

6. UNDERLINES the importance of closing the gap in health and in life expectancy between and within Member States and elaborating comprehensive strategies or plans for cancer prevention and control and NOTES that studies have shown that there are still significant differences between Member States even if the total number of cancer plans is increasing;

7. INVITES Member States to:

- participate actively in the Partnership;
- develop and implement comprehensive cancer strategies or plans by the end of 2013;
- continue their efforts on health promotion and disease prevention, in particular on tobacco control policies and the promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- continue their efforts to achieve full implementation of screening programmes for breast, colorectal and cervical cancer in line with the Council Recommendation of 2 December 2003 on cancer screening and periodically evaluate the effectiveness of available screening programmes, including the technology used and the different organisational approaches, with a view to further enhancing quality;
- ensure population-based cancer registration, which can provide accurate and comparable data on the cancer burden;
- continue their efforts as regards access to screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation, and to medication, in particular to reduce existing health inequalities related to cancer;

8. INVITES the Commission to:

- regularly update the European guidelines for quality assurance in screening;
- provide the scientific and technical support needed for the successful implementation of the activities of the Partnership;
- at the end of the initial phase of the Partnership, to report to the Council on its achievements, in particular in the light of the key deliverables and outcomes set out in the Commission Communication of 24 June 2009, to identify gaps and to consider the need for further action;

9. INVITES Member States and the Commission to:

- continue their efforts as regards research, in particular by collaborating in a more cohesive manner on transnational and translational cancer research and by promoting innovation;
- continue their efforts in the field of cancer prevention and control and renew their engagements as regards the follow-up to the Council conclusions of 10 June 2008 on reducing the burden of cancer<sup>4</sup>.



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<sup>4</sup> 9636/08