# Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan

2025/2139(INI) - 12/11/2026 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 447 votes to 66, with 91 abstentions, a resolution on the implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan was launched in 2021, as **one of the cornerstones of the European health union**. It is structured around four pillars, namely prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and quality of life, and has three cross-cutting themes, namely research and innovation, inequalities and paediatric cancers.

While welcoming the Plan, Parliament stressed that its future implementation should be guided by a **“Health in all policies” approach**, ensuring that prevention and health considerations are systematically integrated across all relevant EU policies in line with the One Health approach. It insisted that health policy must be guided by the **interests of patients** and based on **evidence-based outcomes** and transparency in decision-making.

***Governance and financing***

Concerned by the EUR 1 billion cut in funding for EU4Health, Parliament called on the Commission and Member States to **guarantee adequate and predictable funding** for cancer within the 2028-2034 multiannual financial framework. It therefore requested that EUR 10.05 billion in current prices be allocated to the priorities of the EU4Health priorities, of which a minimum of **EUR 2.5 billion** should be earmarked for cancer-related actions.

Members recommend the establishment of **enhanced coordination** mechanisms for the future implementation of the European plan and stressed that it is essential that the governance of the plan systematically involves patients’ representatives in the design, implementation and evaluation of cancer policies.

The resolution called on the Commission to: (i) establish **a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework** based on results-based indicators, with clear baselines, time-bound targets and regular reporting requirements; (ii) establish an EU framework for national cancer plans.

***Prevention***

Parliament emphasised that cancer prevention should encompass primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention. It underlined that **40% of cancers are preventable**, particularly through the implementation of measures aimed at reducing exposure to risk factors such as tobacco, harmful alcohol consumption, poor diet, environmental contaminants, air pollutants, and exposure to harmful materials and substances such as carcinogens, mutagens, reproductive toxins, and endocrine disruptors.

Members stressed the need for targeted, evidence-based measures to **address regulatory gaps** in current marketing and advertising practices, while further examining the impact of harmful alcohol consumption, particularly at levels exceeding scientifically established health recommendations, energy drinks and so-called ultra-processed foods on people’s health.

In this context, Parliament:

- reaffirmed the objective of creating a "**tobacco-free generation**" by 2040; urged the Commission to present without further delay a proposal for a revision of the EU's tobacco legislation;

- called on the Commission and Member States to promote measures to reduce and prevent **alcohol-related harm** and to present a revised EU alcohol strategy, including a European strategy for zero alcohol consumption for minors;

- called for renewed efforts to **provide consumers with more information** on the nutritional content of various food products and on the importance of a healthy diet, especially among young people; the Commission must accelerate work towards establishing a mandatory and harmonised EU front-of-pack nutritional label;

- recommended increasing **vaccination coverage** against human papillomavirus (HPV) as well as against hepatitis B and improving the prevention, screening and treatment of hepatitis C and Helicobacter pylori infections in order to prevent liver and stomach cancers;

- invited the Commission to give **priority to early detection and screening** in the implementation of the European beating cancer plan: (i) by paying particular attention to breast and gynecological cancer, (ii) by increasing the share of the eligible population covered by prostate cancer screening; (ii) by making progress in the detection of early-onset cancers, including colorectal cancer, among younger populations;

- recommended integrating **AI tools** into national cancer screening programmes, provided that they are clinically validated, risk-assessed and continuously monitored, and with due regard for patient safety;

- underlined the need for a **robust clinical research ecosystem** in Europe that enables cancer research and clinical trials and called on the Commission to intensify its efforts to support research in order to ensure fair, rapid and affordable access to these innovative cancer therapies across the EU.

***Diagnosis and treatment***

Parliament noted with concern that **significant disparities** persist in cancer survival rates across the EU, with breast cancer survival rates varying by as much as 20% between Member States, as do those for paediatric cancer, while colon cancer survival rates fluctuate between 49% and 68% across the EU. Reducing these variations must be a priority. Members stressed that telemedicine, including telemonitoring and teleconsultation, can improve the timeliness of cancer care, facilitate communication with healthcare professionals, and reduce unnecessary burdens for patients.

Parliament further recommended:

- taking measures to facilitate the **reintegration into society** of people living with cancer and to place quality of life at the centre of future cancer control policies;

- ensuring that all EU citizens are guaranteed **equitable access** to cancer diagnosis, treatment and follow-up care without discrimination;

- taking into account the **gender dimension** of cancer inequalities, particularly with regard to risk factor exposure, screening uptake, timely access to diagnosis and treatment, participation in clinical trials and survivorship outcomes;

- providing timely and equitable access to innovative therapies for patients with **paediatric cancer**.

Lastly, the Commission is invited to establish a structured annual dialogue on the Plan’s implementation and to report to the Parliament's Public Health Committee.