

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(89) 210 final

Brussels, 13 June 1989

Draft

## COUNCIL RESOLUTION

concerning an action plan 1990-1994 in the framework of the  
"Europe against Cancer" programme

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(presented by the Commission)

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Explanatory Memorandum

The "Europe against Cancer" programme was launched at the initiative of Heads of State and Government of the European Community at the European Councils held in June and November 1985 in Milan and Luxembourg.

The Council and representatives of the Governments of Member States meeting within the Council adopted a resolution in July 1986 concerning an action programme against cancer based primarily on prevention (OJ C184 of 23.7.1986).

In November 1987 the Council adopted a decision concerning the Fourth Medical and Health Research Programme for the period 1987-1991 which introduced a section on "cancer" for the first time (OJ L334 of 24.11.1987).

Finally, in June 1988, a decision of the Council and of representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council concerning an information and public awareness campaign was added to these texts (OJ L160 of 28.6.1988, pp. 52-53).

The objective of the "Europe against Cancer" programme is to reduce the number of deaths from cancer by 15% compared to present trends between now and the year 2000. This means the saving of 150,000 lives each year.

The first action plan 1987-1989 will be implemented for the mostpart according to the foreseen timetable (cf. OJ C50 of 26.2.1987 et the progress reports of the action plan as at 31 March 1988 (COM(88)239 final of 16 May 1988) and as at December 1988 (SEC(88)1927 final of 14 December 1988)).

The Committee of Cancer Experts was consulted on all scientific aspects of the implementation of the programme and numerous other partners were also associated with this first action plan: Senior officials "Struggle against the use of tobacco", Senior officials responsible for Health education, organisations against cancer, anti-smoking organisations, Representatives of General Practitioners, etc.

In order to finance studies and actions outside research, the following budgets were granted by the budgetary authorities: 1 MECU in 1987, 8.3 MECUS in 1988 and 8.55 MECUS in 1989, with the following breakdown for the last two years:

- Prevention : 40.1% in 1988 (actual) and 40% in 1989 (estimate)
- Training : 6.1% in 1988 (actual) and 8% in 1989 (estimate)
- Information: 47.4% in 1988 (actual) and 40% in 1989 (estimate)
- Education : 6.3% in 1988 (actual) and 12% in 1989 (estimate)

Obviously, the main objective of the "Europe against Cancer" programme cannot be achieved unless all actors at both national and Community level act with continuity and perseverance beyond completion of the Programme's first action plan 1987-1989.

The European Community has proved during these first three years that it has a specific role to play, and can bring an added European value to national actions. Furthermore, it enables significant economies of scale to be made, whilst at the same time avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

In addition to Community legislative activity in the field of cancer prevention (fight against tobacco, improvement of nutrition, fight against occupational cancer, etc.), this first action plan showed that the European Community could also contribute to:

- improving the effectiveness of national actions in the field of prevention, due to a regular exchange of experiences which avoid duplication of effort and enable the less advanced countries to benefit from the progress made in the other countries;
- providing the most appropriate framework in which to carry out epidemiological studies, notably in the field of nutrition. Indeed, the European dimension enables, on the one hand close collaboration between highly-qualified teams, and on the other, the observation of a greater number of subjects having a broad diversity of nutritional habits and lifestyles, which results in speedier and less costly conclusions with better statistical significance;
- each Member State benefitting from the experience of its neighbours in the field of screening and early detection of cancers, by the setting-up of pilot projects subject to strict scientific protocols drafted at European level by top specialists in this field.
- making important progress by means of this cooperation in the organisation and quality of screening programmes and also enabling the improvement of training programmes for medical and paramedical personnel in this field;
- encouraging mobility of all health personnel involved in the fight against cancer and enabling them to benefit from training actions in top European centres;
- meeting the concrete needs for communication and coordination between the various actors in the fight against cancer by the setting-up of partner networks in the framework of the "Europe against Cancer" programme;
- encouraging, with an important knock-on effect, European awareness of prevention and detection rules as set out in the "European Code against Cancer" which was drafted by leading European cancer experts, in close consultation with public and private actors in the Member States;

- each of these actors benefitting from the experience of its neighbours in the field of information and health education, avoiding costly and ineffective duplication of effort;
- strengthening the feeling of citizens of belonging to a European community which aspires to the highest level of health protection.

The objective, strategy and themes of this second action plan are the same as those laid down in the above Official Journal. However, as indicated in Annex II of this draft, the share of the budget devoted to the information of the public will be decreased to 15 %, mainly to the benefit of the "improvement of nutrition" and "training of health personnel".

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaties establishing the European  
Communities,

Having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Commission  
(1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee  
(3),

Whereas, pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty establishing the  
European Economic Community, it is the Community's task to promote  
throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic  
activities, a continuous and balanced expansion, and an  
accelerated raising of the standard of living;

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(1)

(2)

(3)

Whereas the European Councils held in June 1985 in Milan and in December 1985 in Luxembourg underlined the advantages of launching a European Programme against cancer;

Whereas in December 1986 in London the European Council decided that 1989 should be designated "European Cancer Information Year" and specified that the aim would be to develop a sustained and concerted information campaign in all the Member States on the prevention, early screening and treatment of cancer;

Whereas the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, have adopted a resolution on a programme of action of the European Communities against cancer (4) which is concerned principally with cancer prevention;

Whereas the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, have adopted Decision 88/351/EEC (5) on a 1988-89 action plan for an information and public awareness campaign in the context of the "Europe against Cancer" programme;

Whereas various Community actions to prevent cancers arising from exposure to ionizing radiation or exposure to chemical carcinogens are already being carried out under the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community;

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(4) OJ No C 184, 23.7.1986, p. 19

(5) OJ No L 160, 28.6.1988, p. 52

Whereas actions to reduce the risk of cancer from exposure to carcinogenic substances are included in a number of existing Community programmes on the environment, worker protection, consumer protection, nutrition, agriculture and the internal market;

Whereas the present action plan would increase knowledge about the causes of cancer the possible means of preventing and treating it;

Whereas by ensuring a wider dissemination of knowledge of the causes, prevention, screening and treatment of cancer, as well as an improvement in the comparability of information about those matters, in particular concerning the nature and degree of risk of cancer arising from exposure to given substances or processes, the programme will contribute to the achievement of Community objectives, while contributing to the overall reduction of risks of cancer;

Whereas it is advisable to promote the diffusion and the implementation of recommendations on the oncology content of training programmes which were approved in 1988 by the three advisory committees on training of health personnel;

Whereas it is advisable to support training actions in respect of cancer for health personnel of one Member State in leading training centres in another Member State;

Whereas duplications of effort should be avoided by the promotion of exchanges of experience and by the development of common basic information modules for the public, and for the training of members of the health professions;

Whereas it is advisable to continue and strengthen, from 1990 to 1994, action undertaken between 1987 and 1989 in the fields of prevention, information and health education, and training of the health professions, and whereas to this end the amount of the Community contribution deemed necessary amounts to 55 million ECUS;

1. Invites the Commission to implement the 1990-1994 action plan set out in Annex I;
2. Invites the Commission to keep the European Parliament and the Council informed of progress.



**ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1990-1994**

During the period 1990-1994, information on the progress of the "Europe against Cancer" programme, and on the possibilities of Community financing in the following fields of action will be published regularly:

**I. CANCER PREVENTION (including screening)**

**I.A. Fight against tobacco addiction**

- Stimulation of projects of European interest concerning the prevention of tobacco smoking among youngsters and women.
- Stimulation of smoking prevention actions of European interest among educational personnel and health professionals.
- Support of pilot actions promoting the teaching of tobacco-use cessation methods among health professionals and educational personnel.
- Support for innovative information campaigns to prevent smoking among both the general public and in the workplace.

**I.B. Nutrition and cancer (including alcohol)**

- Launch of European-wide combined analyses (meta-analysis) of existing data on nutrition and cancer.
- Extension of European case-control studies on links between nutrition and cancer to areas not covered in the first action plan.
- Completion of the feasibility studies launched in the first 1987-89 action plan and of European prospective studies on nutrition and cancer.
- Launch of European-wide studies on the potential benefits of certain "anti-promoting" agents.
- Drafting of guidelines on nutrition aimed at improving cancer prevention.

I.C. Fight against carcinogenic agents

- Continuation of all Community actions concerning protection against ionizing radiation.
- Support of studies and actions of European interest aiming at improving protection against ultraviolet radiation.
- Continuation of European studies on the possible carcinogenic risk of certain chemical substances.
- Continuation of classification and labelling of carcinogenic substances at European level.

**I.D Systematic screening and early diagnosis**

- Continuation of comparative studies concerning the improvement of the organisation of cancer screening policies.
- Extension and monitoring of the European network of breast cancer screening pilot programme.
- Evaluation studies of existing cervical cancer screening programmes and setting up of a European network of pilot regional or local programmes.
- Continuation of evaluation studies on screening programmes for colorectal cancer and eventual setting-up of a European network.
- Promotion of studies of European interest on the efficiency and the feasibility of screening and early detection of other cancers.

**I.E. Cancer registration and similar actions**

- Support of the establishment of cancer registries throughout the European Community and setting-up of a European network.
- Link-up of existing bone marrow banks and feasibility study on a European registry.

**II. INFORMATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

II.A. Information of the public

- Eventual updating of the European Code against Cancer.
- Renewal each year of a European information action on cancer during the second week of October.
- Production of European television programmes on prevention, screening and treatment of cancers.
- Diffusion of the European Code to the general public by the partners of the Programme.
- Support for innovative actions for cancer information on cancer prevention among targeted groups.
- Steady evaluation of the efficacy of the efforts made.

II.B. Health education in cancer prevention

- Support of information and awareness of education personnel about the "European Code against Cancer".
- Dissemination of educational supports for Health Education.
- Promotion of pilot action promoting awareness of the European Code among young people.

III. TRAINING OF THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Support to the organisation of national or regional meetings to promote the 1989 European recommendations on the cancerology content of basic training programmes for health personnel.
  
- Support for the setting-up of three European pilot networks of medical schools, dental faculties and nursing schools implementing the recommendations on the cancer content of training formulated in 1988 by the three advisory committees on training of health personnel.
  
- Promotion of actions in training in cancer in the framework of the specific training of general practitioners.
  
- Encourage the mobility between Member States of health professionals in courses of specialised training in cancerology.
  
- Collection and exchange of teaching materials of European interest for training education of health personnel.
  
- Exchanging experiences and support for the organisation of European seminars for the continuing education of health personnel.
  
- Exchange of experience between Member States in anti-pain treatments, in palliative and continuing care, and on the role of health personnel, notably GP's and nurses, in cancer treatment.

**IV. RESEARCH ON CANCER**

- Submission of proposals for a Fifth Medical and Health Research Coordination programme and the Sixth Medical ECSC Research Programme.

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE BUDGETARY ALLOCATION (%)

	1988	1989	1990-1994 estimate
PREVENTION	40.1	40	50
. (Fight against tobacco addiction)	(9)	(12)	(15)
. (Improvement of nutrition)	(8)	(10)	(20)
. (Screening)	(14)	(13)	(10)
. (Other)	(9.1)	(5)	(5)
TRAINING	6.1	8	18
INFORMATION	47.4	40	15
HEALTH EDUCATION	6.3	12	17

FINANCIAL SHEET

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1. BUDGET HEADING

B6470

2. LEGAL BASIS

- Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 7 July 1986 on a programme of action of the European Communities against cancer (OJ C184 of 23.07.1986).
- Decision of the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 21 June 1988 adopting an action plan 1987-1989 concerning an information and awareness campaign in the framework of the programme "Europe against Cancer" (OJ L160 of 28.06.1988).
- Amendment 420 adopted by the European Parliament during the budgetary procedure relative to financial year 1988 to reinforce budget heading B6470.

3. PROPOSAL FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENSES INTO OBLIGATORY/  
NON OBLIGATORY

Non compulsory expenditure

4. DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Description of the action: see Annex I to the proposal for resolution

4.2 Justification for the action:

The "Europe against Cancer" programme, which aims to reduce mortality by cancer by 15% in the year 2000, will obviously not reach this final objective by the end of the first action plan 1987-1989. The struggle against cancer calls for long term effort. The present draft resolution ensures continuity of effort: actions already undertaken will be continued and new European actions will complete the programme in the fields of prevention, information and health education, and training of health personnel.

5. NATURE OF THE EXPENSE AND MEANS TO CALCULATE IT

- Cost of the "Europe against Cancer" action plan 1990-1994 (excluding research): 55 MECUS.

This budget will be used to finance expenses directly linked to the implementation of the "Europe against Cancer" programme, subventions for studies and actions of European interest in the field of prevention, information and health



education, training of health professions. Certain running costs will also be financed by this budget in the framework of the comments stated in the budget.

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE ACTION ON THE INTERVENTION CREDITS

6.1 Balance of credits and payments (dissociated credits)

	Engagements	Payments					95
		1990	91	92	93	94	
1990	8.5	3.0	4.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
1991	10.0	-	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	-
1992	11.5	-	-	7.5	2.0	2.0	-
1993	12.0	-	-	-	8.0	4.0	-
1994	13.0	-	-	-	-	6.0	7.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>

From 1990 onwards, a technical office "Europe against Cancer" might be set up (after a call for tender in 1989) to assist the European Commission in the handling of studies and action proposals submitted to the European Commission. Furthermore, five detached national experts will assist the Commission.

From 1991 onwards, multiannual prospective studies, notably on nutrition and cancer, as well as pilot screening experiments, will be subsidized by the programme after a call for tender.

6.2 Proportion financed from the Community budget: 100%

7. FINANCIAL IMPACT FOR STAFF AND CURRENT ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS

The appropriate proposals could be drawn up during the 1990-1994 action plan in the event of difficulties in implementation.

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