



## Actions to Protect Outdoor Workers and Improve Access to Care

# NON-MELANOMA SKIN CANCER: EUROPE'S HIDDEN OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

THURSDAY 13 JUNE 2019  
9.30 - 11.30  
European Parliament, Brussels, Room ASP 5G1

HOSTED BY  
MEP LIEVE WIERINCK, ALDE

After the panel discussion, the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) will offer **visual skin cancer screenings** to raise awareness and educate participants about the need for regular check-ups with dermatologists. The visual skin cancer screenings will take place in room ASP 05G520.

## AGENDA

**9:30 - 9:45: Welcoming Breakfast**

**9:45 - 9:50: Opening Remarks**  
Ms. Lieve Wierinck, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE group)

**9:50 - 10:00: Unveiling the Hidden Faces of NMSC: The Patient Journey**  
Kathi Apostolidis, Vice President, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)

**10:00 - 10:20: Health professional's perspective: Addressing the Unmet Needs of NMSC Patients**  
Prof. Dr. Swen Malte John, Chairman, Department of Dermatology & Environmental Medicine, University Osnabrück, European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology (EADV), International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)  
Prof. Dr. Lars French, President-Elect, International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) (tbc)

**10:20 - 10:35: Protecting Outdoor Workers**  
Marian Schaapmann, Head of Unit Working Conditions, Health and Safety, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)  
Victor Celedonio, Medical Service, Iberdrola

**10:35 - 10:50: Perspectives from the European Institutions**  
Charlotte Grevfors, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission  
Elke Schneider, Senior Project Manager, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) (tbc)

**10:50 - 11:10: Open Debate and Q&A**

**11:10 - 11:15: Closing remarks**  
MEP Lieve Wierinck, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE group)

**11:15 - 11:30: Visual Skin Cancer Screenings Begin**



European Cancer  
Patient Coalition



European Academy of  
Dermatology and Venereology



ALDE PARTY  
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DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE



## MEETING REPORT

### Welcoming Remarks

In their welcoming remarks, **Ms. Lieve Wierinck, Member of the European Parliament (ALDE group), and Alex Filicevas, Head of EU Affairs, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)**, referenced the [Global Call-to-Action to End the Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Epidemic in Outdoor Workers](#). The Call-to-Action was launched in April at the Multi-Stakeholder Summit on Occupational Skin Cancer, convened by the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) in Paris during the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Association of Dermato Oncology (EADO).

Both speakers emphasized that the launch of the first ever Global Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Day is a key milestone but added that discussions should continue once the new European Parliament and Commission are inaugurated this fall.

### Unveiling the Hidden Faces of NMSC: The Patient Journey

*Kathi Apostolidis, newly-elected President, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)*

Ms. Apostolidis is a breast cancer survivor and also President of the Hellenic Cancer Federation. She noted that reducing inequalities in timely access to state of the art treatment and care among EU cancer patients is a core priority of the ECPC. She explained that ECPC focuses on four areas: cancer policy, advocacy, research, as well as capacity building for their members through a range of initiatives including annual meetings focused on specific disease areas, toolkits and other materials.

On non-melanoma skin cancer specifically, Ms. Apostolidis pointed out that it is essential to raise awareness among the self-employed, trade unions and migrants. Access to screenings and survivorship care among these populations must be improved. In addition, specific programs need to be designed to have effective legislative frameworks at the EU and national level and to ensure effective enforcement.

Ms. Apostolidis provided an overview of an awareness raising campaign on non-melanoma skin cancer among island populations in Greece. As part of the program, the Hellenic Cancer Federation organized seminars targeting high school students and their parents to discuss the importance of taking care of their skin. She noted that young students are the best ambassadors for raising awareness of non-melanoma skin cancer and other skin diseases.



## Health professional's perspective: Addressing the Unmet Needs of NMSC Patients

*Prof. Dr. Swen Malte John, Chairman, Department of Dermatology & Environmental Medicine, University Osnabrück, European Academy of Dermatology & Venereology (EADV), International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)*

Prof. John showed a slide with former Presidents of the USA who had non-melanoma skin cancer, including Ronald Reagan, Lyndon Johnson and Dwight David Eisenhower.

He explained that farmers in Italy are unlikely to be diagnosed early of non-melanoma skin cancer and, even when they are diagnosed, it is very unlikely that their cases are reported. That is despite the fact that non-melanoma skin cancer is recognized as an occupational disease in Italy. This clearly shows that we need to improve reporting and help these patients at an early stage.

Prof. John highlighted a range of facts about non-melanoma skin cancer:

- The disease is increasing by at least 4% worldwide
- It can be detected with a naked eye
- Prevention is easy
- Once the cancer is removed, it does not stop. This is particularly true of non-melanoma skin cancer. If a patient has one of these lesions (primary tumor), it is very likely that they'll get consecutive tumors.

In Germany reporting of non-melanoma skin cancer has increased since it was recognized as an occupational skin cancer in 2015. Despite this fact, the most recently available data on cancer in Germany still does not show non-melanoma skin cancer. In addition, the reported figures only comprise the first lesion.

There are ongoing efforts to make sure that population-based cancer registries in Europe also include non-melanoma skin cancer. At the moment, only 20 do. These registries should also have to report the occupational activity of the patient to be able to see in which occupations the disease peaks. The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU OSHA) classifies outdoor workers as those who spend 75% or more of their working hours outside. However, the population at risk of developing non-melanoma skin cancer are not only outdoor workers and can be in the hundreds of millions.

Prof. John explained that it is possible to distinguish between leisure time and work-related exposure. He also added that recent measurements have shown unexpectedly high values of exposures, with the limits being exceeded 5-8 times.

Currently, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO) are looking at the effect of work on health. Prof. John is coordinating a global study on the disease burden of non-melanoma skin cancer.

At the World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 25, it was decided that the new International Code of Diseases (ICD) will be implemented in its current form. Based on the new ICD, the first priority should be to tackle under reporting and addressing the enormous health economic burden of this disease. It is essential to ensure that cancer registries do report these cases and report the depth of



them (e.g. if they're reported early or late). Targeted prevention measures must also be improved through concerted actions (e.g. teaching, regular screening of outdoor workers).

The economic cost of non-melanoma skin cancer in Europe is estimated at 36 billion euros. At the Multi-Stakeholder Summit in Paris, participants discussed the need to improve legislation, to conduct regular screenings and recognize non-melanoma skin cancer as an occupational disease. It is also paramount to monitor UV exposure among workers and increase collaboration in cancer prevention and in raising public awareness of the disease.

## Protecting Outdoor Workers

*Marian Schaapman, Head of Unit Working Conditions, Health and Safety, European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)*

The European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) is very much committed to the case of occupational cancers and even more to non-melanoma skin cancer. Ms. Schaapman noted that the problem would not be solved just by having a European Directive that includes solar UV radiation, adding that enforcement and regular health surveillance are key.

She provided an overview of the regulatory system in the field of occupational health and safety in the European Union. She referenced a hierarchy of prevention measures, stating that employers need to start with the measures that are most effective. She added highlighted the responsibilities of employers and stated that work can be organized to avoid the sun in the middle of the day.

Recognizing non-melanoma skin cancer as an occupational disease is essential as it would give patients access to compensation. Legislation is also first and foremost a driver for preventative action.

*Victor Celedonio, Medical Service, Iberdrola*

Iberdrola is a multinational energy company with presence in Latin America, the USA and Europe. In Spain alone they have 9K employees, of which 2.5K work outdoors. Iberdrola's Medical Department is part of the Human Resources function.

Mr Celedonio stated that companies have an important role to play when it comes to preventing occupational diseases. As a member of the in-house medical service of Iberdrola, he conducts routine screenings and focuses on education.

Iberdrola's sun protection policy includes:

- Risk assessment
- Educational training of workers

The company's sun protection strategy includes:

- Creating a work schedule that limits sun exposure
- Reminding outdoor workers to apply sunscreen
- Changing workplace whenever possible to avoid the sun



Iberdrola provides sun protection equipment to their employees including hats, vests, sunscreen.

## Perspectives from the European Institutions

*Charlotte Grevfors Ernoult, Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

Ms. Ernoult praised the first ever Global Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Day as a very relevant initiative to drive action from all actors involved.

She discussed key EU policy and legal documents pertaining to occupational health:

- Health and Safety at Work Strategic Framework 2014-2020. The framework names three main challenges, one of them being the prevention of occupational diseases. It also puts a heavy burden on companies to address this challenge.
- The 2017 European Commission Communication on the Modernization of the EU Occupational Safety and Health Legislation and Policy stresses the fight against occupational cancer. The current Commission has made remarkable progress when it comes to chemicals and chemicals related cancers.

However, to achieve real change at the work place level, legislation is not sufficient. It must be efficiently enforced. From the EU side, the Commission provides guidance, for instance in the agricultural sector, for employers to conduct health risk assessment and management.

The EU OSHA is currently exploring the possibility of conducting a new survey of carcinogens at work, including UV radiation.

## Open Debate and Q&A

- Prof John noted that it is important to involve primary care physicians in the prevention and treatment of non-melanoma skin cancer because in large areas of the world there's only primary care available to patients. He also encouraged all attendees to read the White Paper provided in the briefing pack with global and regional evidence about the disease burden; regulatory and reporting challenges; and recommended actions to ensure better access to treatments.
- Patricia Weinert (EADV) noted that the employers of many outdoor workers are small companies. Therefore, for EU OSHA ensuring enforcement among small and medium-sized companies is still a significant challenge.
- Ms Schaapman noted that it is important to file cases for compensation due to non-melanoma skin cancer because these give visibility and rationale for the need to recognize it as an occupational disease.
- Ms Grevfors noted that the European Commission's Senior Labour Inspectors' Committee (SLIC) has developed guidance to perform occupational health risk assessments.



## Closing Remarks

*Alex Filicevas, Head of EU Affairs, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)*

Mr Filicevas concluded the meeting by asking all attendees to take part in the cancer screenings, supported by four dermatologists associated to the EADV. He also asked those in attendance to support the online awareness campaign and to get stickers at a stand in Place du Luxembourg, a key meeting point in the European Quarter of Brussels right in front of the European Parliament. At the stand, UV stickers were handed out alongside directions for use and an infographic highlighting key facts about the disease. Passersby were encouraged to take pictures with their UV stickers on in front of a rollup about the first Global Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Day.