

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

**Draft Council resolution concerning an action plan 1990 to 1994 in the framework of the
Europe against cancer programme**

COM(89) 210 final

(Submitted by the Commission on 11 May 1989)

(89/C 164/05)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Communities,

Having regard to the draft resolution submitted by the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

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;

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⁽¹⁾ 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⁽²⁾ on a 1988 to 1989 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;

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 and 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;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 184, 23. 7. 1986, p. 19.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 160, 28. 6. 1988, p. 52.

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 ECU 55 million,

INVITES THE COMMISSION:

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

ANNEX I

ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 1990 to 1994

During the period 1990 to 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)

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 the general public and in the workplace;

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 to 1989 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;

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 ultra-violet 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;

D. Systematic screening and early diagnosis

- continuation of comparative studies concerning the improvement of the organization 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 colo-rectal 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;

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**A. Public information**

- 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;

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 organization 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 specialized training in cancerology,
- collection and exchange of teaching materials of European interest for training education of health personnel,

- exchanging experiences and support for the organization 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 GPs 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

(in %)

	1988	1989	1990 to 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