



CALL TO ACTION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROTECTION OF OUTDOOR WORKERS FROM OCCUPATIONAL SKIN CANCER

Whereas:

- A. Skin cancer is the **most common cancer** in Europe.
- B. There is a growing body of research linking **exposure to UV radiation in outdoor workers** to the rapidly increasing incidence of non-melanoma skin cancer in Europe.
- C. Whereas outdoor workers are at a 43% higher risk of **basal cell carcinoma**, and at a 77% higher risk of **squamous cell carcinoma**¹.
- D. Whereas this poses challenges not only for the individuals concerned but also **national health systems** and insurance schemes.
- E. Whereas the **World Health Organisation** has classified solar UV as a *Group 1 carcinogen* along with substances such as Plutonium
- F. Whereas natural optical radiation (sunlight) was controversially excluded from the scope of **Directive 2006/25/EC** on the protection of workers from exposure to optical radiation
- G. Whereas the 2003 **European Schedule of Occupational Diseases** does not include skin cancers caused by UV radiation
- H. Whereas the European Commission is still to come forward with a proposal for a **Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work** for the period 2014-2020

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, representatives of patients suffering from occupational skin cancer, members of the dermatological profession and representatives of workers unions, call on the European Commission to:

1. Initiate a process to revise the 2006 **Directive on Optical Radiation** with a view to including natural optical radiation within its scope
2. Update the **European Schedule of Occupational Diseases** to include skin cancers and skin diseases caused by UV radiation
3. Come forward with a new **Community Strategy on Health and Safety at Work** which includes specific objectives for occupational skin cancer and skin diseases by sunlight
4. Participate in the ongoing process of defining workers' exposure limits through WHO-led **UN Guidelines on non-ionizing radiation**.

Signed:

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ⁱ Schmitt J et al. (2011) Occupational UV-Light exposure increases the risk for the development of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Br J Dermatol 2011, 164, 291-307
Bauer A et al. (2011) Is occupational solar UV-irradiation a relevant risk factor for basal cell carcinoma? A systematic review and meta-analysis of the epidemiologic literature. Br J Dermatol, 2011, 165, 612-625