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.
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

Signed:

Prof. Dr. Swen Malte John, MD
Chair EU COST Action StanDerm
Chair EADV Task Force on Occupational Disease
Dept Dermatology, University of Osnabrück

Prof. Dr. Matthias Augustin, MD
Director, University Medical Centre, Hamburg-Eppendorf
Prof. Dr. Jana Hercogová, MD
President, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV)

Prof. Dr. Veronique del Marmol, MD
Chair Euromelanoma

Prof. Dr. Myrto Trakatelli, MD
Chair Media Committee, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV)

Nikiforos Orphanos
Board Member and Treasurer, Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), Board Member of the Cyprus Anticancer Society

Laurent Vogel
European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)

Prof. Dr. Matthieu Boniol
President, European Society of Skin Cancer Prevention

Charlotte Fionda
Director, SKCIN

Hannu Takkula MEP

Eleni Theoharous MEP

Michèle Rivasi MEP

Charles Tannock MEP

Kriton Arsenis MEP

Christel Schaldemose MEP

Alojz Peterle MEP

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