

High-level meeting with EU Social Partners (ESP) on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Pharmaceutical Strategy, 12 Nov 2020

Participants:

Commissioner Kyriakides ; apologies from VP Schinas

European Social Partners (ESP):

- Employers representatives: [redacted]
BusinessEurope; [redacted] European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest (CEEP); [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] SMEunited; [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] European Chemical Employers Group (EC EG).
- Workers representatives: [redacted] European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC); [redacted] European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU); [redacted] IndustriALL.

Colleagues from: CABs Kyriakides, Schinas, Schmit; SANTE 01, 02, B, C; EMPL A2

Report by: [redacted] cancer); [redacted] (pharma)

Contacts for questions: [redacted]

Session I: Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

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Interventions from employers representatives:

(BusinessEurope): welcomes the EBCP and its ambition to support Member States in tackling cancer in a holistic way. There is a lot on which we can build. Employers have a responsibility in cancer prevention.

Refers to CMD at work and flags that new substances need to be incorporated taking into account new evidence and technical capability to avoid these substances. Priority focus should be on those substances which concern the most number of workers.

Regarding health and safety legislation. Employers have a role to play. Important to find a balanced approach and focus on good and successful implementation.

Acknowledges employers responsibility to work also on social protection, and support those who have been affected. Noted that employers need to deal with the consequences of cancer of all origins (not only from workplace exposure). Employees have the right to return back to work of same or similar kind. However, she stressed there are no currently common rules on the return to work. Support from public institutions to increase information and health literature is also extremely important.

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Discussion

(BusinessEurope): employers are not specialists of cancer, and they need help and information to tackle this issue. Each workplace has a role to play through HR departments regarding social protection and support.

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Session II: Pharmaceutical Strategy

Interventions from employers representatives:

(BusinessEurope): acknowledges that lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic should inform the Pharmaceutical Strategy. A strong industry is necessary for the EU. Innovation is key, as is availability of the right skills and well-functioning international supply chains and a well-functioning internal market.

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Discussion

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BusinessEurope underlines that public authorities play great role in pharma market and they use it also affordability both for patients and for health systems. A patient-centred and industry centred Pharmaceutical strategy goes hand-in-hand because good conditions for innovation and production in EU are requisites for a patient-centred strategy

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