Joint Declaration on the Security of Supply of Medical Radioisotopes for Beating Cancer

February 2022

Belgium, **Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg**, **the Netherlands**, **Poland** and **Portugal**,

WELCOME Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, its recently published Implementation Roadmap and the SAMIRA Action Plan to improve timely access for European patients to diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other diseases.

ACKNOWLEDGE the view of experts that the use of medical radioisotopes for targeted cancer therapy will drastically increase in the coming years and that without replacing the current ageing European production infrastructure, the EU will be dependent on foreign supply which could potentially cause serious radioisotope shortages and jeopardize access to vital treatments.[1]

REITERATE that the COVID pandemic has confronted us with the vulnerabilities in the supply chains for critical medical products and the need to improve the long-term sustainability and resilience of the supply chains and strategic autonomy in the EU.

EMPHASISE that due to their short half-life, medical radioisotopes need to be delivered quickly to hospitals and that therefore, production on European soil is not only a political-strategic choice, but also a very practical necessity for patients.

RECOGNISE the view of experts that most therapeutic radioisotopes are most effectively produced in reactors, whereas accelerators/cyclotrons are needed to accompany the anticipated development in diagnostic imaging radioisotopes. Investments in both domains are considered to be necessary to minimize EU reliance on foreign supply.[2]

REALISE that for large irradiation installations, fully private initiatives might not be practicable, due to the known difficulty of implementing full cost recovery, the high investment costs and the relatively long durations for design, construction and licensing and that thus a mix of public incentives and private initiatives is required.[3]

UNDERLINE the need for concerted action at EU level to strengthen the supply chain of medical radioisotopes in the medium to long term in order to be self-sufficient and maintain timely and equal access to vital medical procedures for all European patients and develop innovative treatments in the field of cancer and other diseases.

COMMIT to long-term cooperation with the Member States, European Commission, European Parliament, international organisations and stakeholders, to…

- **Ensure the continued supply of medical radioisotopes** with strengthened cooperation in the whole supply chain and, in particular, the renewal of the European infrastructure for the production of medical radioisotopes, which will strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty and leading export position in the world. Supply chain participants should implement full-cost recovery, allowing for a level-playing field between European and foreign producers;
- **Improve the accessibility and affordability of innovative cancer treatments** for all European patients, by cooperating in the area of research and development of radiopharmaceuticals for innovative cancer therapies and in the area of real-world data on new therapies to better understand patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness;
- **Improve data sharing and monitoring** on supply chain issues, medical needs and technological developments with a stronger involvement of the health communities in this area.

INVITE the European Commission to coordinate the above mentioned areas of action and provide adequate and sustainable funding, in close cooperation with the health ministries and stakeholders, under the umbrella of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the SAMIRA Action Plan. To this end, the Commission is invited to organise a stakeholdermeeting to prepare the work on the European Radioisotope Valley Initiative (ERVI) and to publish a roadmap for political discussion in the Council in 2022.

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[1] Study on sustainable and resilient supply of medical radioisotopes in the EU and Co-ordinated approach to the development and supply of radionuclides in the EU | Energy

[2] Idem

[3] Idem