



NOTE TO HEALTH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Subject: Direct Contract with IARC

The mission of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is to coordinate and conduct research on the causes of human cancer, the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, and to develop scientific strategies for cancer prevention and control. It is the only organisation of its kind in the area of cancer, and it provides high-quality scientific support and technical knowledge on cancer which contributes to the EU cancer policy and is essential for the effective implementation of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer.

Cooperation with IARC is longstanding. IARC led many project in the cancer that were supported by the first Health Programme, with results of particular added-value at European level. Some examples are: European Guidelines for quality assurance in breast and cervical cancer screening (and for colorectal cancer screening, due to be published soon), Report on the implementation of the Council Recommendation on cancer screening.

However, direct grants are considered as a more appropriate and effective mechanism for financing actions of international organisations. Its specific capacities linked to its remit make IARC particularly qualified to provide high-quality scientific and technical support to the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer. IARC will provide vital input to the European Partnership, in particular in the areas of health information, health promotion and prevention (including the revision of the European Code Against Cancer and activities dealing with monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance of cancer screening, as a contribution to the continued improvement in secondary prevention of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer and to the successful implementation of the screening programmes in Member States to the benefit of the population), healthcare and research.

The results aim to contribute to the implementation of the Commission Communication on Action Against Cancer: European Partnership (COM (2009) 291 final) and to the implementation of the Council Recommendation of 2 December 2003 on Cancer Screening.

Action for the Committee:

X	For information
	For comments
	For agreement