

EN

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Reply

(9.7.2019)

While the Council has not discussed the specific issues raised by the Honourable Member, it should be recalled that, pursuant to the treaties, Member States have the main competence to act in the field of public health.

Consequently, in accordance with Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Council has acted to ensure a high level of human health protection, in particular by establishing the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020), which supports cooperation and networking in the Union in relation to preventing and improving the response to chronic diseases, including cancer¹.

A consistent level of protection from the risks related to carcinogens and mutagens is also provided for in Directive 2004/37/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council in the field of the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work².

Directive (EU) 2019/130 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 January 2019 has recently amended that Directive, in a longer-term process to update Directive 2004/37/EC in the light of available information, including progressively acquired scientific and technical data.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 (OJ L 86, 21.3.2014, p. 1).

² OJ L 30, 31.1.2019.