

European Parliament votes overwhelmingly for improvements to Carcinogens Directive

↳ With over 94% of the vote, on 25 March 2021 the European Parliament approved significant amendments to the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive. All amendments were suggested by EU trade unions, which have made the fight against occupational cancers one of their priorities.

Among the proposed modifications are an extension of the Directive's scope to include reprotoxic substances and the inclusion of hazardous medicinal products in its Annex I. A risk-based methodology for setting occupational exposure limit values to make them more protective was also widely supported. Other improvements include obligations imposed on the EU Commission to set up an action plan for the adoption of 25 extra OELs for carcinogens by the end of 2021.

Inter-institutional negotiations are expected to start in May 2021. If confirmed, these changes could come into force in all Member States in 2023.



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