

Expansion of the European Parliament Cervical Cancer Interest Group (CCIG) into a Europe-wide political network.

The CCIG is very good at raising awareness of cervical cancer prevention in the European Parliament, Council and Commission. However, these European institutions have limited jurisdiction over healthcare policy in the Member States and it is therefore important to develop productive working relationships with like-minded politicians from the national governments.

The ECCA is working with the CCIG to establish a European network of national politicians having an interest in cervical cancer prevention with the intention that the inaugural meeting of this group (The European Cervical Cancer Prevention Summit Meeting) will be held during the next European Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (20-26 January 2008). The objective of this meeting will be to produce a consensus report on the implementation of the organised cervical cancer prevention programmes in Europe.

It is important to note that a focus of the Slovenian Presidency is cancer prevention in Europe and they are planning a conference on this topic for February 2008. In addition, Slovenia is a country that has made substantial progress with the implementation of organised cervical cancer screening and it is an issue that they should be inclined to highlight. Therefore, holding the Summit Meeting in January will allow the report to be delivered to the Slovenian Presidency in time for their meeting on cancer prevention and help to ensure that cervical cancer prevention receives due priority in their deliberations. In addition, the report will be delivered to the Commission, the Council, the Permanent Representations in Brussels, national Ministers for Health, etc.

We are now looking for your support to identify national politicians within your country that have an interest in cervical cancer prevention. If you can provide us with the names and contact details of these people, one of the Chairs of the CCIG will write to them to invite them to participate in this new European network. Your help with this would be greatly appreciated.