



THE EANM POLICY BULLETIN

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE IN EUROPE TOGETHER

Welcome to the EANM Policy Bulletin!

This quarterly newsletter provides you with an **overview of policy updates** related to nuclear medicine, hand-picked by the EANM for you. Read below about

- **Cooperation & Community Involvement**
- **Publications & Positioning**
- **Policy Initiatives & Political Developments**
- **Events**
- **Statement**

Should you wish to bring questions, feedback or inquiries forward, please contact the EANM via **e-mail**.

Enjoy reading!

COOPERATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PRAC: From Committee to Council!

The EANM Policy & Regulatory Affairs Committee (PRAC) is becoming the EANM Policy & Regulatory Affairs Council!

Apart from this slight name change, the PRAC's activities will remain the same. As a Council, the PRAC will continue supporting the EANM Board with coordinating policy activities on the EU level and with engaging in a permanent dialogue with EU policymakers.

Thus, the PRAC will also continue helping the EANM with achieving its key policy objective: **making Nuclear Medicine services accessible to all patients across the EU**.

Are you wondering what are the PRAC's main priorities for 2024? Check out **our** new video!



Shaping together the future of Nuclear Medicine in Europe

EANM EU Advocacy and Policy Vision

Kick-off of the INTERACT-EUROPE 100 Project

On February 8–9, 2024, the EANM joined the kick-off event of the **INTERACT-EUROPE 100 project**. The event was hosted by the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) in Barcelona, Spain.

INTERACT-EUROPE 100 is an EU co-funded initiative which aims at implementing an inter-specialty cancer training designed for cancer professionals. Building on its predecessor, INTERACT, it will leverage the previously developed **Inter-Specialty Cancer Training (ISCT) curriculum** and will deliver it to 100 cancer centres across Europe.

38 organisations from 15 EU countries are working together to ensure that the initiative meets the needs of cancer professionals in Europe.

During the two-day kick-off meeting, the consortium held working meetings for several work packages, and discussed their external communication plan. The EANM looks forward to working on tasks across these different work packages.

[Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS & POSITIONING

EURAMED's Rocc-N-Roll Project

The EURAMED Rocc-N-Roll project aimed at developing a **strategic research agenda (SRA) in the field of medical applications of ionising radiation and related radiation protection** to improve patient care.

After three years of project work, the SRA was recently published. This agenda serves as a guide for EU policymakers, funders, as well as the scientific and clinical communities. It is intended for those interested in research, innovation, and training related to medical applications of ionising radiation. It highlights current challenges and areas where research efforts are needed to ensure accessible, highest quality, and safe personalised care for EU patients.

Annual Report of the EURATOM Supply Agency

For anyone interested in learning more about the current EU landscape for non-power applications of nuclear technology, do not miss the report published by the EURATOM Supply Agency (ESA)!

It focuses on reactor scheduling and covers the implementation of the SAMIRA Action Plan. It also details various EU-funded projects that aim to secure the supply of medical radioisotopes.

[Check out the ESA report](#)

POLICY INITIATIVES & POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

2024 Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Over the next six months – until June 30, 2024 – **Belgium will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, a position it has not held since 2010.

Belgium succeeds Spain and precedes Hungary. Together, these three countries form the presidency trio, with a common programme. However, each Member State has the freedom to put its stamp on the Council. As President, Belgium presented its priorities under the motto **‘Protect, Strengthen, Prepare’**.

Health holds a central pillar in the **Belgian Presidency's agenda**. In fact, the Belgian Presidency plans to work on strengthening the EU's resilience to future health threats by reinforcing crisis management capacities, by supporting healthcare systems, and by improving the security of medicines supply.

More specifically, the Belgian Presidency is committed to providing full support to the development of radiological and nuclear technologies. At the core of its activities, the Presidency plans to secure the supply of medical radioisotopes and to reinforce the EU's leadership in the production, development, and sustainable reimbursement of these materials. It will therefore take forward the implementation of the European SAMIRA Action Plan and the European Commission's initiative to establish an 'European Radioisotope Valley Initiative' (ERVI). To further this objective, a stakeholder meeting will be convened to address the security of radioisotope supply.

This is the first time that a Member State chooses to focus on driving Europe's medical radioisotope excellence during its Presidency. The EANM is very pleased that the Belgian Presidency is planning to prepare **Council conclusions** on this important topic, showcasing concrete goals for the future.

The EANM Board and the Policy & Regulatory Affairs Council (PRAC) look forward to being involved in this process over the next six months.

The EU's List of Critical Medicines – What About Radiopharmaceuticals?

Back in December, the European Commission and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) published the **first Union list of critical medicines**.

This publication followed the commitment made in the **Commission's Communication on addressing medicine shortages in the EU to foster the security of supply of critical medicines and preventing shortages from occurring**. It is also part of the EU's efforts to improve its resilience and strategic autonomy in the face of geopolitical and unexpected challenges.

A medicine is listed as critical when it is essential to ensure the provision and the continuity of quality healthcare. This first Union critical medicines list contains more than 200 active substances used in human medicines, including technetium-^{99m}Tc and Iodine-125I.

For all the products included in the list, the vulnerability of the supply chain will be assessed to come up with the most suitable actions and tools. The list will be regularly updated.

To ensure that all parties are consulted in updating the list of critical medicines and in developing the needed actions and tools, the European Commission is in the process of establishing a **Critical Medicine Alliance**, which will be open to all organisations active in the critical medicine's ecosystem.

The EANM believes that the input of radiopharmaceutical stakeholders will be essential given the special characteristics of radiopharmaceuticals. The EANM will work on making sure that nuclear medicine is well represented in these discussions.

EVENTS

PAST EVENTS

Throwback to the Event 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan: Joining Forces'!

Turning the tide on cancer is one of the main priorities of the European Commission in the health domain. Three years after the publication of **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**, Stella Kyriakides – European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety – hosted a high-level event on January 31, 2024. The event aimed to highlight the EU's efforts on matters such as prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Belgian EU Presidency's Workshop on Radiopharmaceuticals

During its presidency of the Council of the European Union, Belgium is striving towards a brighter future for radiopharmaceuticals.

The Directorate-General for Energy of the Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-Employed and Energy is organising a workshop titled 'Belgian EU Presidency Workshop: Securing Access to Radiopharmaceuticals for all European Patients'. The event will take place **in Brussels on February 28, 2024**.

The **one-day workshop** will be divided into four sessions, each focusing on a specific topic:

1. Precision medicine in cancer therapy using radiopharmaceuticals.
2. The importance of doctor's knowledge to guarantee patient's quality of life: the patient's perspective.
3. EU regulatory aspects.
4. Securing the radiopharmaceutical supply chain and fostering the EU autonomy.

Each session will include presentations from leading members of the radiopharmaceutical community. This event will also consist of formulating recommendations, composed and signed by experts. These recommendations will aim at underlying the need to place radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals on the Critical Medicines list published by the EMA. Additionally, they will address the challenge of securing access to radiopharmaceuticals for all European patients.

The EANM looks forward to participating in this important event!

[Find out more about the workshop](#)

Upcoming Launch of the Radioligand Therapy Academy

The aim of the **Erasmus+ Radioligand Therapy (RLT) Academy** project is to develop a **first-of-its-kind European level training opportunity on RLT, which will take the form of an online educational platform**. To mark the launch of the platform, the EANM and its partners will be hosting a dedicated event **at the European Parliament in Brussels, on April 4, 2024**.

This event will be a great opportunity to discover all the features the RLT Academy has to offer. Its dynamic platform will offer open access to several resources. Users will be able to explore **targeted courses, an RLT library, and practical training in the field of RLT**. Additionally, it will keep healthcare professionals updated on the latest advancements in the field of nuclear medicine.

The event will bring together a wide range of policymakers, decision-makers, relevant healthcare institutions, and nuclear medicine professionals coming from all over Europe.

Stay tuned via the EANM's social media channels and newsletters to get more details about the launch event!



'Nuclear Medicine, radioisotope supply and radiopharmaceutical development will get a significant boost in Europe. Next to many national activities to secure Europe's leading role, it is with great pleasure that we witness that the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will put the promotion of excellence in nuclear medicine in the spotlight. This is a unique moment for the nuclear medicine community, as we are experiencing a strong political commitment to secure the supply of medical radioisotopes in so many political spheres in parallel. The EANM is confident that the Belgian Presidency, by involving all stakeholders in the discussion, will succeed in building on this momentum by presenting strong mechanisms to facilitate supply. EANM is ready for continued engagement on this issue'.

Wim Oyen,

Chair of the EANM Policy & Regulatory Affairs Council (PRAC)



European Association of Nuclear Medicine | Schmalzhofgasse 26 | 1060 Vienna | AUSTRIA

Phone: +43 1 890 44 27 | Fax: +43 1 890 44 27-9 | M: office@eanm.org

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