



**AIM**

Healthcare and  
social benefits  
for all

## PRESS RELEASE

# AIM WELCOMES THE ADOPTION OF EVIDENCE-BASED COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS ON CANCER SCREENING

AIM welcomes the adoption of the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening. We subscribe to the cautious approach followed by Member States on the extension of mass screening programmes to lung and prostate cancer screening. AIM is pleased that its key concerns have been taken into account.

### Lung Cancer: Research is needed on Implementation

As highlighted in our recommendations, research on the implementation of lung cancer screening is needed before deciding to roll out mass screening programmes for that type of cancer. If meta-analyses have indeed shown a decrease in mortality for screening via low dose computed tomography, more studies are needed on how to implement those programmes efficiently, on the specific modalities (e.g. targeting, frequency, protocols, etc.). AIM therefore welcomes that those aspects are also highlighted in the Recommendations, and that implementation studies are encouraged by the Council.

### Prostate Cancer: Building the Evidence is vital

AIM believes that no randomised-controlled trials support the decision to roll out mass prostate cancer screening using prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing. RCTs should be carried out and their results considered in the decision on whether or not to extend

"mass screening programmes" to prostate cancer. We therefore embrace the stepwise approach put forward by the Council Recommendations, which includes (...) piloting and further research, to evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of the implementation of organised programmes (...)" for prostate cancer screening.

### Implementation : AIM Experts ready to collaborate on European Guidelines

A key element in the successful implementation of the Recommendations is the update and development of European Guidelines, especially for the "newly added cancers" (lung, prostate and gastric). AIM experts stand ready and look forward to collaborating with the European Commission and other key stakeholders in the development of those guidelines, so as to ensure that they take into account the latest state of scientific evidence.

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AIM is the umbrella organisation of health mutuals and health insurance funds in Europe and in the world. Through its 54 members from 28 countries, AIM provides health coverage to 240 million people in the world and 209 million in Europe through compulsory and/or complementary health insurance and managing health and social facilities. AIM strives

to defend the access to healthcare for all through solidarity-based and non-for profit health insurance. Its mission is to provide a platform for members to exchange on common issues and to represent their interests and values in the European and international Institutions.

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