PRESS RELEASE

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The sun, the main cause of occupational cancer for almost 14.5 million European workers.

Brussels, Belgium/Lugano Switzerland – 24/03/16. There are almost 14.5 million workers in Europe, who spend at least 75% of their working time under the sun. A new report published last week from a group of leading dermatologists, members of the EADV, and other experts from all around Europe, clearly showed that this major part of Europe’s workforce is under an increased risk of developing non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC).

Data in the report show that after only five years of outdoor work, the risk of developing NMSC is at least twofold for outdoor workers compared to indoor workers. Furthermore, the data also show that health literacy and proneness to prevention are significantly lower for outdoor workers.

The report entitled “Non-melanoma Skin Cancer by Solar UV. The Neglected Occupational Threat”, provides an overview and new research on the current European status quo regarding epidemiology, risk assessment and UVR exposure measurement, legal management and health care services provided to affected workers.

In a consensus report found in the same publication, the experts call European member states to recognise NMSC as an occupational disease and the EU Commission to revise the 2006 Directive on Artificial Optical Radiation (2006/25/EC) to include solar UV radiation within its scope. This Directive currently only defines limits for exposure of workers to artificial optical radiation to the eyes and skin and completely excludes exposure of workers to sunlight.

"For the sake of outdoor workers with skin cancer by the sun EADV had to stand tall, providing the overwhelming scientific evidence for the invisible occupational risk of solar UV. Far too many of our patients diseased with work related skin cancers ask us 'why has nobody told me before? I would then have protected myself!' This has to change! Prevention is simple and cheap, and skin cancer is one of the few cancers entirely curable if detected early," comments Prof. Dr. Swen Malte John, one of the editors of the report, Chair of the Media & PR Committee of the EADV and Chair of the EU Horizon2020 COST Action Standerm.
The publication can be accessed online at:

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About EADV
Founded in 1987, EADV is a non-profit association whose vision is to be the premier European Dermato-Venereology Society, with the key aims of improving the quality of patient care, providing continuing medical education (CME) for all Dermato-Venereologists in Europe, and advocacy on behalf of the specialty and patients.
The membership concept has been broadened to include all areas of Europe and elsewhere, and the development of alliances and affiliations with other organisations.
For further information about the Academy, please contact us under +32 2 650 00 90 or visit www.eadv.org