

**The consensus statement of Kos on cancer and environment**  
ASPIS III - (EU) Cancer Seminar (QLAM-00030-2000)

The participants in the third meeting of ASPIS on environment and cancer in the Hippocratic Foundation on the island of Kos, reached agreement on the following points:

1. A world-wide cancer epidemic, resulting in 8 million new cases each year, is under way.
2. In industrialised countries this epidemic, especially for non-smoking related cancer, is likely in large part due to environmental carcinogens. Environmental exposure in this context should be understood as exposure to anthropogenic chemicals and radiation in water, air, soil, food and consumer products, as well as occupational exposures. Consequently this exposure is to a large extent involuntary.
3. A significant number of these cancers may be avoided and prevented by reducing exposure to environmental carcinogens
4. The above statements hold in a state of knowledge characterised by scientific uncertainty concerning mechanisms of carcinogenesis. However, the strength of the causal evidence between cancer and environmental exposure is not limited by uncertainties about mechanisms of action of carcinogens.