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**INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CANCER**

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Dear Mr Schmidt,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2004 inviting us to attend the public hearing on the "Draft for a law to establish a population-based cancer registry in Nordrhein-Westfalen", to be held in Düsseldorf on 12 January 2005.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to attend with such short notice, due to the Christmas holidays and the language problem. However, we notice that several German cancer registries, members of the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR), are in your list of invitees and we will ask them for feedback. We would, of course, be very interested in receiving information about the outcome of this meeting and any report or material available would be welcome (preferably in English).

The ENCR, the secretariat of which is at IARC, has been in operation for 15 years and has some 170 members (population-based cancer registries in Europe), of which 12 in Germany. We are, of course, strongly supporting the establishment of new cancer registries in order to increase coverage in the countries. We are also particularly interested in the issues of confidentiality and data protection and enclose a copy of the ENCR 'Guidelines for Confidentiality in Cancer Registration' published in 2003.

For your information, the ENCR reviewed the Bremen Cancer Registry in June 2003. The results of the review contributed to securing continuity of the registry.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Eya Démaret
ENCR Administrative Coordinator