
European Commission Reaffirms its Support for the European Partnership for Action against Cancer



Nothing About Us, Without Us!

On October 13 & 14, 2010, the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) held the "ECPC Cancer Summit: Making the Cancer Partnership Work", in Brussels. Over 150 participants including researchers, parliamentarians, patients' organizations, Member States' representatives and Commissioners gathered to focus on the activities deriving from the 'European Partnership for Action Against Cancer'. The ECPC Summit centred on themes of cancer prevention, cross-border collaboration, sharing best practice, cancer research and inequalities in healthcare provision. The conference aimed to create grass-roots momentum for collaboration between all stakeholders in tackling cancer, in tandem with cancer patients, which should be at the centre of these actions.

The "European Partnership for Action Against Cancer", launched by the EU Commission in September 2009, is a new initiative with an ambitious agenda of a pan-European collaborative effort to tackle cancer more evenly and effectively across the EU. John Dalli, the Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, held a keynote speech at the Summit and reaffirmed his commitment to take the Partnership forward, following his motto 'patients first', which fully corresponds to ECPC's motto: "Nothing about us without us", meaning that the cancer patient should be a central player in guiding and carrying out EU cancer initiatives. The Commissioner recognised the progress that is required to ensure that patients across Europe are guaranteed the same quality of care, but also emphasised the European Commission's commitment to cancer prevention, screening and sharing of information between member states. This commitment is represented by the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer, which aims to reduce cancer by 15% by 2020.

Over the years, ECPC has campaigned at the national and European level for recommendations and declarations to support cancer patients, as it is presently doing with the support of over 60 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) through the 'Forum Against Cancer in Europe' (FACE). It continues to call upon all Member States to develop and implement fully comprehensive cancer policies or plans. The MEPs present at the Summit equally reaffirmed their support for the Partnership and for the work of the ECPC.

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