

PRESS RELEASE

European Civil Society Calls for One Health Technology Assessment for All EU Member States

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Brussels, Belgium

Today, the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) called for a systematic involvement of patient organisations in Health Technology Assessment in the European Union and stressed the need to enforce mandatory participation and uptake of Joint Clinical Assessments, as the only solution for successful cooperation on HTA. In a meeting with the EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis to exchange views on Health Technology Assessment legislative proposal, ECPC also highlighted the need for formalisation of patient organisation involvement throughout all activities of Health Technology Assessment at the EU level, as well as in the assessments of non-clinical domains that are conducted at the national level.

Patient preferences are seldom considered in Health Technology Assessments and patient organisations are mostly not involved in these assessments. Yet patients are the ultimate beneficiaries of medical technologies, and have unique knowledge, perspectives and experiences which must be considered. **Therefore, patients are the people directly and immediately affected by the results of Health Technology Assessments.**

“If we are not able to establish an effective mechanism to guarantee meaningful patient organisation involvement in Health Technology Assessment at the European level, it will be extremely difficult to implement this process at the national level”, said Kathi Apostolidis, Vice President of the European Cancer Patient Coalition, in a meeting with the Commissioner Andriukaitis. It is essential that the European Union underlines the vital role that patient organisations play in the decision-making process by formalising the participation of patient organisations.

The European Cancer Patient Coalition advocates for patients as equal partners, and patients must be the focus of the Health Technology Assessment at the EU and the Member State level. The European Medicines Agency as well as some national agencies of the Member States have all had very positive results when incorporating patient organisations as active partners in their decision-making processes. It is also critical to ensure transparency across the production of Health Technology Assessments and appraisal procedures. The European Cancer Patient Coalition is confident that high quality Joint Clinical Assessments have the potential to reduce risk, increase safety, and underpin faster access to life-preserving treatments, therefore it is essential that the uptake of Joint Clinical Assessments and cooperation in Health Technology Assessment is mandatory for all Member States.

The European Cancer Patient Coalition hopes to see continued synergy in the efforts of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Member States to work towards better health of European citizens. ECPC is ready and willing to work with the European Commission to inform Members of the European Parliament and with ECPC member national patient organisations to inform at the national level about this important proposal. We have already begun initial conversations with Members of the European Parliament and national patient organisations, and we will continue to engage in fruitful dialogue in the coming months.

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About the European Cancer Patient Coalition

The European Cancer Patient Coalition is the largest European cancer patients' umbrella organization.

The European Cancer Patient Coalition is the voice of cancer patients in Europe. With over 400 members, ECPC is Europe's largest umbrella cancer patients' association, covering all 28 EU member states and many other European and non-European countries. The European Cancer Patient Coalition represents patients affected by all types of cancers, from the rarest to the most common.

Notes to editors:

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