

Supporting Survivorship: Life after diagnosis and post-treatment care of head and neck cancer patients

Lunch event organised by the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) and hosted by MEP Lieve Wierinck (ALDE, Belgium).

18th September 2017

12.00 – 14.00

Location:

European Parliament, Members' Salon, ASP Floor 0

Rue Wiertz 60 – Brussels

On Monday 18th September 2017, ECPC will host a lunch event at the European Parliament to promote better quality of life for cancer patients and survivors, as well as raising awareness of these cancers and calling for prevention, earlier diagnosis and timely treatment.

The event will gather top experts in the field of public health and patient representatives, who will open a holistic debate on next steps towards supporting survivorship.

Head and neck cancer is the 7th most common type of cancer in Europe with more than 150,000 new patients diagnosed every year. There is still little awareness of this type of cancer among the public, with many cases diagnosed at late stage.

Head and neck cancer not only alters the appearance and the personal functions of people with cancer, but it forces patients to reconsider their outlook on life, role within a family, professional and personal lives and their future. Moreover, even for a survivor, the ongoing effects of the disease have overpowering psychological and physical consequences.

The theme for the 2017 Make Sense Campaign is Supporting Survivorship, and its activities will focus on improving the lives of head & neck cancer survivors, helping them to 'live better, live longer'.

As such, the Make Sense campaign team is bringing the fight to the European level, by presenting to the European Parliament the specific needs, issues, and challenges of head and neck cancer survivors.

Agenda:

12.00-12.10: Welcome

- MEP Lieve Wierinck, *Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), Belgium*

12.10-12.20: Introductory remarks and ECPC involvement in supporting survivorship of head and neck cancer patients

- Jana Pelouchova, *ECPC Board Member*

12.20-12.45: Life after diagnosis: My journey

Patients' testimonies:

- Anke Steinbacher, *Germany*
- Magali Mertens, *Vie&Cancer, Belgium*

Moderator: Dr Lydia Makaroff, *ECPC Director*

12.45-13.00: A physicians' perspective: importance of early diagnosis and a multidisciplinary approach to patient care

Background of the campaign, introduction to the storybook, scientific background on survivorship in head and neck cancer

- Dr Lisa Licitra, *European Head and Neck Society, Chief of the Head and Neck Cancer Medical Oncology Unit and Head & Neck research program at the Istituto Nazionale Tumori in Milan, Italy*

13.00-13.15: ECPC-ESMO Guidelines on Survivorship

- Dr Stefan Rauh, *Chair of the ESMO Practicing Oncologists' Committee*

13.15-13.30: Prevention and survivorship: European Union initiatives on head and neck cancers

- Antoni Montserrat Moliner, *Senior Expert for Cancer and Rare Diseases, Directorate of Public Health, European Commission*

13.30-13.50: Discussion and questions from the audience

13.50-14.00: Closing remarks

- Jana Pelouchova, *ECPC*
- MEP Lieve Wierinck, *ALDE*

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#SupportingSurvivorship #MSC2017