ECPC – Speaking with a single voice for all cancer patients

Established in 2003, the European Cancer Patient Coalition is the voice of the European cancer patient community, uniquely representing the interests of all cancer patient groups from the major to the rarer cancers. It has been established to represent the views of cancer patients in the European healthcare debate and to provide a forum for European cancer patients to exchange information and share best practice experiences.

We derive our mandate to speak with “one voice” for all cancer patients from our membership and our democratic structure. With its motto “Nothing about us without us”, ECPC represents more than 300 patient organisations in 41 countries, including the 27 EU Member States.

ECPC’s Mission

- Making cancer a priority for action on the European health policy agenda
- Effecting change in legislative or regulatory policies to help optimise cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care throughout Europe.
- Ensuring that all cancer patients in the EU have access to timely and appropriate information about prevention, screening, early intervention, ongoing clinical trials and best quality treatment and care.
- Empowering cancer patients to take an active role in shaping European and national policy that impacts on cancer prevention, treatment and care
- Ensuring that best cancer practice is shared across the EU and gaps within and between Member States are eradicated.
- The purpose of the association is to foster cooperation between the cancer patients’ organisations within Europe and to develop a common policy, and everything that is related to this in the broadest sense of the word, either directly or indirectly.

ECPC’s Objectives

- To ensure that the rights of cancer patients are upheld and enforced.
- To increase cancer patients’ representation and influence at the highest level of decision making, nationally and Europe-wide, in all areas that affect their health.
- To empower patients to become true partners in the healthcare system.
- To obtain for patients certain and timely access to appropriate and accurate prevention, medical diagnosis, treatment and care, including psycho-social care.
- To encourage population-based screening programmes according to European quality guidelines.
- To promote the advance of cancer research, to include all applicable information on well-designed Clinical Trials and where possible the right to enrol in them.
- To call for improved multi-disciplinary training of health professionals.
Established in 2003, The European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) is the voice of the European cancer patient community, uniquely representing the interests of all cancer patient groups from the major to the rarer cancers. It has been established to represent the views of cancer patients in the European healthcare debate and to provide a forum for European cancer patients to share best practice on patient advocacy.

**ECPC’s Six Guiding Strategic Goals**

- Making cancer a priority for action on the European health policy agenda
- Ensuring that best cancer practice is shared across the EU and gaps within and between Member States are eradicated
- Empowering cancer patients to take an active role in shaping European and national policy that impacts on cancer prevention, treatment and care
- Fostering co-operation between the cancer patients’ organisations within Europe and to develop a common policy
- To ensure that the rights of cancer patients are upheld and enforced
- To increase cancer patients’ representation and influence at the highest level of decision making, nationally and Europe-wide, in all areas that affect their health
- To empower patients to become true partners in the healthcare system
- To obtain for patients certain and timely access to appropriate and accurate prevention, medical diagnosis, treatment and care, including psycho-social care
- To encourage population-based screening programmes according to European quality guidelines
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**ECPC’s Objectives**

- To influence political decisions that have an impact on the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer
- To reach out to national level to support ECPC members in their capacity building efforts on the national level
- To build strategic partnerships with key cancer stakeholders to create mutual benefit
- To build ECPC’s capacity through an effective and growing organisation

**ECPC’s Priority Areas (2009-2013)**

- Influence EU policy that has an impact on the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer
- Build strategic partnerships with key cancer stakeholders to create mutual benefit
- Build ECPC’s capacity through an effective and growing organisation

**Funding Policy**

- To ensure that the rights of cancer patients are upheld and enforced
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ECPC Board of Directors (2007 – 2010)

ECPC was founded by a group of cancer patients with the encouragement of healthcare professionals. It is governed by a Board of Directors, over half of whom are cancer patients or survivors from six European Union countries. These members form the board for the period 2007 – 2010:

- **Tom Hudson** (ECPC President), Europa Uomo, Ireland
- **Simona Ene** (ECPC Vice President), Sharing same Destinies, Romania
- **Heide Peuss** (ECPC Vice President), mamazone woman and research against breast cancer, Germany
- **Sandy Craine** (ECPC Secretary), CML Support Group, UK
- **Tom van der Wal** (ECPC Treasurer), Stichting Diagnose Kanker (SDK), The Netherlands
- **Lynn Faulds Wood**, Lynn’s Bowel Cancer Campaign, UK
- **Luminita Andreescu**, FAVD & Avolnt, Italy
- **Evgeniya Adarska**, APOZ, Bulgaria
- **Jesme Fox**, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, UK (resigned June 2009)

ECPC is grateful for the patronage of

- **Androulla Vassiliou** (Cyprus)
  EU Health Commissioner (2008-2010)
  Former First Lady of Cyprus
  Honorary President of the Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends

- **Jolanta Kwasniowska**
  Founder and President of the “Communication Without Barriers” Foundation
  Former First Lady of Poland

- **Els Borst-Eilers** (The Netherlands)
  Former Minister of Health of the Netherlands
  Medical Doctor and Chair of the Dutch Federation of Cancer Patients

ECPC Members

ECPC welcomes all European Cancer Patient Organisations as members of ECPC. Over 300 cancer patient organisations from 41 countries have already joined ECPC as Full Members or Associate Members. The membership of the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) shall consist of cancer patient organisations. Full membership of ECPC is open to organisations meeting the following criteria:

- The organisation shall be registered as a non-profit organisation in one of the EU Member States. If the applicant organisation is not registered in an EU Member State, additional information will need to be provided demonstrating European focus and activities.
- The main objective of the organisation must be the advocacy, support and care of cancer patients and their carers, and have a clear patient focus.
- Cancer patients or their relatives shall be involved in the organisation’s governing body and committees.
- The organisation shall be willing to cooperate with other organisations having the same objectives.

- The organisation shall be independent of governments, political parties and commercial organisations.
- The organisation shall accept and abide by the Statutes/Constitution, Vision, Mission and Objectives, as published on the ECPC website.

Other organisations, which do not fulfil the requirements of above are welcome to join ECPC as Associate Member, as long as they are a cancer-related organization, are non-profit, have the advocacy, support and care of cancer patients and their carers as their key focus, and show involvement of cancer patients or their relatives in the organisation’s governing body and committees.

If you represent an EU cancer patient organisation, we hope you will join us in the fight against cancer. To become an ECPC member please contact info@ecpc-online.org or see the ECPC website for the application form.

ECPC Staff

- **Jan Geissler**, ECPC Director
- **Denis Horgan**, ECPC Political Affairs Manager
- **Michaela Geissler**, ECPC Secretariat
- **Hildrun Sundsbo**, ECPC Director EU Policy (resigned June 2009)

ECPC Patrons
One of ECPC’s key priorities is to make cancer a priority for action on the European health policy agenda. With its policy activities, ECPC aims to effect change in legislative or regulatory policies to help optimise cancer prevention, detection, treatment and care throughout Europe. The policies also need to ensure that gaps within and between Member States are identified and eradicated, and that best practice is shared.

By speaking with a united voice for all cancer patients, with cancer affecting one third of the EU population, ECPC managed to give a new impetus to tackling cancer more forcefully and collaboratively by the EU and its 27 Member States. Combined efforts between patient groups, members of the European Parliament, the Commission, the European Medical Agency, EU Member States, industry and the oncology community made the fight against cancer once again a political priority for action.

European Partnership for Action Against Cancer

The “European Partnership for Action Against Cancer” was initiated by the EU Commission in September 2009 with the support of a number of stakeholders like ECPC, bringing together the Commission, Member States and their Ministries of Health, patient organisations, health professionals, researches, industry and civil society. The Partnership aims to engage relevant stakeholders across the EU in a collective effort to tackle cancer by providing a framework for identifying and sharing information, capacity and expertise in cancer prevention and control. The long-term aim set out by the Commission is to reduce new cancer cases by 15% by 2020.

ECPC played a very active role in the Cancer Partnership when it was initiated in 2009. At the launch event, Lynn Faulds Wood facilitated the panel discussion titled ‘The Way Forward’, constituted by experts and politicians. Mr. Alojz Peterle, co-chair of MEPs Against Cancer (MAC), gave the example of ECPC efforts and the MAC initiative as evidence of a partnership in action at the EU level. ECPC presented stories of cancer survivors from the ECPC Membership from all 27 EU Member States, also including ECPC’s Board Members Heide Preußl and Tom van der Wal. The patient was at the centre of the Partnership’s launch.

ECPC’s aim in the Partnership is to contribute the patients’ voice and to include ECPC’s member organisations in the work. ECPC proposed two key activities which were welcomed: The “Virtual Partnership” as an internet collaboration platform that will enable all partners to collaborate via the Internet, and encourage the public to contribute ideas. In addition, ECPC with the European Cancer League has suggested an initiative “Young Europeans in the Partnership” to acknowledge the important role of young people and engage with youth-driven energy and unfettered inspiration using “Social Media”. First projects within the Partnership are expected to start their work in 2010.
Health Policy Forum (DG Sanco)
ECPC is a member of the Commission’s Health Policy Forum that brings together about 40 key stakeholders with an interest in health policy. The HPF provides a platform for policy formulation and consensus building around the EU health strategy. It also aims to ensure that the Commission’s health strategy is made clear to the public. It offers ECPC the opportunity to influence and contribute at an early stage to health policy development, setting of priorities and actions. In 2009, ECPC has supported the Health Policy Forum e.g. with input on a common response of the Health Policy Forum on the Commission’s consultation on the future EU 2020 strategy.

Rare Diseases Task Force (DG Sanco)
The aims of the Rare Diseases Task Force are to advise and assist DG Sanco in promoting optimal prevention, diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases in Europe, in recognition of the unique added value to be gained through European coordination. Being an observer of the Task Force, ECPC provided input into the discussions on behalf of rare cancer patients.

Pharmacy Services (DG Internal Market)
In 2009, ECPC has developed new contacts with EU Directorate General “Internal Market” which is responsible e.g. for pharmacy services in the EU. Discussions were based around the risks of online sales in terms of counterfeit medicine, the need of self-players for competitive pricing of over-the-counter medicines, home delivery, and the potential role of pharmacies tackling adherence issues in oral cancer therapies. In 2009, ECPC presented at the Commission’s “Workshop on Access to High Quality Pharmacy Services” which was attended by both the Commission and Member State representatives, outlining the patients’ interests in pharmaceutical care.

European Medicines Agency - Patient and Consumer Working Party
ECPC sits on the official Patient and Consumer Working Party (PCWP) of the European Medicines Agency. The PCWP provides a permanent forum for interaction with patients and consumer organizations to ensure that there is an ongoing dialogue between the Agency and the end users of medicines. Specifically, ECPC ensures that the cancer the patient’s voice regarded by the regulator. In its PCWP work, ECPC is consulted about the user-friendliness of product information for the public (EPARs) and package leaflets (SPCs), and is involved in the preparation of guidelines and consulted by Agency’s scientific committees, working parties, and scientific advisory groups. ECPC participates in two PCWP working groups: “Patient Information” and “Pharmacovigilance and Risk Management”.

More information at http://ecpc-online.org/ema

EU Project: European Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Colorectal Cancer Screening
ECPC is an associate partner in the Commission-funded consortium set up to produce quality cancer screening guidelines for colorectal cancer. ECPC’s role is to make sure that the Guidelines will be patient-friendly and to create public awareness of the need for screening. ECPC, represented by Lynn Faulds Wood, has strongly supported the dissemination of the project’s activities, and has assisted in the launch of colon cancer screening programmes e.g. in Cyprus and Slovenia. ECPC also sits on the steering committee of the project.

EU Project: RARECARE
The burden of rare cancers in Europe is unknown, and no generally accepted definition exists. There are large variations in clinical outcome for rare cancers, with poorer survival among older patients and in eastern European countries. By aligning the epidemiological data of more than 80 cancer registries across Europe, the EU-funded project “RARECARE – Surveillance of Rare Cancers in Europe” aims to provide an operational definition of “rare cancers”, and a list of cancers that meet this definition, and to estimate the burden of rare cancers in Europe. It has published a list of rare cancers with data on incidence, survival, prevalence and mortality. It will develop strategies and mechanisms for the exchange of information among all the key players involved in Europewide surveillance for rare cancers.

ECPC, as a project partner and member of the Steering Committee, provides the patient per-spective and supports the communication to a wider public. There have been several meetings in 2009 where ECPC has presented the patients’ perspective, and has provided feedback on the projects’ deliverables.

http://www.rarecare.eu

MEPs Against Cancer (MAC)
After the Europe against Cancer programme closed in 2002, cancer had not been high on the political agenda of the European Union. This is why as a first step, ECPC encouraged Members of the European Parliament to set up an informal all-party forum called MAC - MEPs Against Cancer. ECPC provided the MAC Secretariat since MAC’s initial start in 2006. Until the 2009 elections of the European Parliament, the group had grown to 70 MEPs from across the major political groups and Member States. MAC members were committed to make the fight against cancer once again an EU priority. As a work basis, MAC had adopted a “MAC Statement” with 7 policy recommendations which had been sent to Ministers of Health.

Since its initiation in 2006, MAC held 7 meetings to discuss important cancer issues that need urgent attention, e.g. on cancer screening, cancer control strategies, national cancer plans or young people and cancer prevention. ECPC as the MAC Secretariat facilitated these meetings.

EU Parliament Elections 2009
Elections for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) took place across Europe from 4-7 June 2009. ECPC provided a toolbox to its ECPC member organisations to prepare their campaign. The toolbox contained the “ECPC Guide to the 2009 European Parliament elections”, template letters and the “ECPC Manifesto against Cancer”, a draft press release and a newsletter to translate and personalize in national campaigns. In addition, ECPC sent letters to all MEPs, highlighting the concerns of cancer patients, and asking them to support the fight against cancer in their future work.

European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (EFGCP)
The European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (EFGCP) is a leading European nonprofit think tank for discussion, research, and critical evaluation in the development of European health research. Its purpose is to promote Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and encourage the practice of common, high-quality standards in all stages of clinical research throughout Europe. EFGCP organises international conferences on these topics.

In July 2009, ECPC presented the cancer patient perspective at the “Multidisciplinary Workshop on A Single CTA in Multinational Clinical Trials - Dream or Option?”. Looking at the complicated field of ethics reviews, ECPC supported the idea of centralized trial applications and ethical reviews of clinical trials across Europe and called for less diversity in ethical reviews.

In 2009, ECPC has been on the Steering Committee and Organizing committee of the “EPOS1 10th Workshop on Partnering for Rare Diseases Therapy Development”, and has been presenting a cancer patient’s voice at the conference. In addition, ECPC has co-chaired a session at the “Workshop on Clinical Trials - Shaping the Future of European Clinical Research Legislation”.
In 2009, ECPC provided a forum for European cancer patient groups to share best practice and skills. Its “Advocacy Toolbox” was set up to provide helpful resources for cancer patient advocates and organisations. In 2009, ECPC has put a lot of effort in extending the toolbox to support its membership.

In 2009, the following tools were developed or updated:
• ECPC Conference Toolbox - the ECPC step by step guide for organizing patient conferences, with ready to use templates.

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In 2009, the following tools were developed or updated:
• ECPC Conference Toolbox - the ECPC step by step guide for organizing patient conferences, with ready to use templates.
ECPC Member Updates and Press Releases

All ECPC’s members regularly receive newsletters with news about ECPC’s activities on behalf of their membership.

Member Updates 2009
- ECPC Member Background Briefing on the European Parliament hearings of the EU Commissioners-designate (Jan 2010)
- EU 2020 Strategy (Jan 2010)
- False/mis/Counterfeit Medicinal Products (Dec 2009)
- Cross-Border Healthcare Failure to reach political agreement on a draft directive (Dec 2009)
- European Parliament adopts resolution on smoke-free environments (Nov 2009)
- European Commission on Health Inequalities (Oct 2009)

Press Releases 2009
- Launch European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (Sept 2009)
- Launch Campaign European Action Against Rare Cancers (June 2009)
- EU draft legislation - patient access to information on prescription medicines in peril (June 2009)
- European Parliament votes for balance between medical research and animal welfare (May 2009)
- Patient’s Rights Day (April 2009)
- More cancer screening needed in EU, concludes EC report (Jan 2009)

ECPC Presentations at Conferences in 2009

ECPC represented the cancers patients’ perspectives when speaking at international meetings, including, among others:
- Biowinian, The World Life Sciences Forum, France, 03/2009
- EPPOSI Clinical Trials Workshop, Belgium, 04/2009
- New York, USA, Putting Knowledge into Practice: First transatlantic symposium on practical strategies to increase colon cancer screening and save more lives (Felix Burda Foundation) 04/2009
- EPPOSI Workshop on Partnering for Rare Disease Therapy Development, Belgium, 04/2009
- 4th European Liver Patients Association “Viral Hepatitis - a Continue Challenge”, Brasov, Romania, 05/2009
- 7th International Conference of Organizations of Peoples with CML and GIST “New Horizons in Treating Cancer”, Lisbon, Portugal, 06/2009
- EFPCP Workshop on centralized CPA and Ethics Reviews, Belgium, 07/2009
- Lance Armstrong Cancer Summit, Ireland, 08/2009
- World Conference on Lung Cancer, 08/2009
- “Proactive Prostates” Initiative, Belgium, 09/2009
- ECCO/ESMO Annual Congress, Berlin, Germany, 09/2009
- London, UK, London School of Economics HTA Summer School, 09/2009
- Launch Event of the DG SANCO European Partnership on Action against Cancer, Belgium, 09/2009
- ECPC Members in Action Conference/4th ECPC Masterclass, Germany, 10/2009
- EPPOSI workshop on Rare Disease Therapy Development (Specific challenges of rare cancers), Belgium 10/2009
- Jolanta Kwasniakowska’s Foundation Childrens Cancer Event, Poland, 10/2009
- Chronic Disease & Health Management International Conference (Under the High Patronage of the President of Romania), Bucharest, Romania, 10/2009
- 3rd International Cancer Control Congress (ICCC), Italy 11/2009
- AIO Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany, 11/2009
- EONS Advisory Council Meeting, 11/2009
- Training Course on “Increasing the awareness of young people about cancer”, Ankara, Turkey 12/2009
- 3rd International “Blooming Plant” Oncology Days, Ankara, Turkey 12/2009
- over 15 workshops in the European Parliament on Health-related issues including - Information to Patients, Counterfeit medicines and Cross Border Health Care
- http://ecpc-online.org/updates

Collaboration

ECPC actively maintains relationships with other European organisations, for example:
- European Cancer Organisation (ECCO)
- European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)
- European School of Oncology (ESO)
- European Cancer League (ECL)
- European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS)
- European Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry (EPPOSI)
- European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)
- European Organisation for research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries (EFPIA)
- European Patients’ Forum (EPF)
- Europa Donna
- European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (ETGCP)
- European Haematological Association (EHA)
- Drug Information Association (DIA)
- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)
- International Union Against Cancer (UICC)
- International Alliance of Patient Organisations (IAPO)
- European Genetic Alliances’ Network (EGAN)

Outlook on ECPC’s Activities in 2010

ECPC’s four key priority areas for 2010 are:

1. EU Policy
ECPC will continue to make sure cancer is a priority for action on the European health policy agenda by working closely with the new EU Commission’s DG Sanco, DG Research, DG Internal Market, DG Enterprise, DG Youth, the Health Policy Forum (HPF), EU Committee of Experts on Rare Diseases, MEPs and the European Medicines Agency. Through our new Brussels office, we will continue with our EU Policy work, and look forward to collaborating with and supporting future EU presidencies (Spain, Belgium) as well as MEPs Against Cancer.

2. Outreach to the national level supporting members
We are preparing two conferences for 2010. One focuses on the political process and will be held in Brussels, with another focused on capacity building in CEE countries. We would like to invite members to become National Advisers to ECPC, and will support initiatives wherever local (national) ‘MAG groups’ can be initiated. We also plan to extend our very popular ‘Advocacy Toolbox’, for example in the areas of social media and influencing policy. By setting up a ‘Rare Cancers Action Group’, we will be supporting ECPC member organisations that represent rarer and less common cancers to work together towards common goals.

3. Building strategic partnerships
We want to expand our partnerships with other cancer groups & stakeholders in order to widen our cooperative work with other key patient advocacy groups, as well as further develop our relationships with professional organisations.

4. ECPC capacity building
We will expand its infrastructure, resources and, as much as possible in such challenging economic times, try to enlarge the funding base. We will further extend communications with regular website updates, newsflashes, member updates, press communications etc.
### Finances

#### Funding Policy

ECPC welcomes EU grants, private donations, corporate donations, grants and sponsorship to fund certain projects and to enable the Coalition to grow and develop independently from commercial and governmental influences.

We owe it to our membership and patients across Europe, who have placed their trust in us, to act in a fully democratic, independent and transparent manner, according to the highest standards of good governance. We derive our legitimacy from our membership, ECPC's constitution and democratically elected board of whom more than half are cancer survivors. We are most anxious to work on a constructive approach together with all stakeholders to ensure the credibility of patient groups is safeguarded.

**ECPC** will foster dialogue, and establish collaborative partnerships, with all stakeholders whose decisions will affect the chance of survival and quality of life of millions of European cancer patients, including the industry.

ECPC’s relationship with funders is guided by its “Policy on Funding Arrangements with Commercial Partners” and ECPC’s “Transparency Statement”. These principles are used to guide ECPC’s decisions, applying to all potential relations with any company from any industry as well as with governmental agencies. The purpose is to ensure that ECPC has a consistent and transparent approach to working with any funder, and to clarify ECPC’s position on funding to its member organizations, commercial companies and the wider public.

http://ecpc-online.org/finances

#### Funding 2009

ECPC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the European Commission for work in the ongoing EU projects “Colorectal Cancer Screening Guidelines” and “RARECARE”.

ECPC invites companies and individuals to become Sustaining Partners with an annual unrestricted grant.

ECPC’s relationship with its Sustaining Partners is guided by aforementioned policies. For 2009, ECPC would like to thank the following Sustaining Partners for their unrestricted educational grants:

- **AMGEN**
- **AstraZeneca**
- **Ortho Biotech**
- **GSK**
- **Eli Lilly**
- **Merck**
- **Novartis**
- **Pfizer**
- **Sanofi Aventis**
- **Sanofi Pasteur MSD**

In addition, the following companies have provided unrestricted educational grants for the “ECPC Members in Action Conference”: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly, Glaxo Smith Kline, Novartis and Pfizer.

ECPC also gratefully acknowledges the continued support of the European School of Oncology (ESO), e.g. for supporting the maintenance of the ECPC website.

**ECPC** accounts for 2009

Internal Balance Sheet as per 31 December 2009

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**571.788,98**

**60.000,00**

**571.788,98**

### Profit and Loss Account for the period of January 1 until December 31, 2009

**Income 2009** (EUR)

| **Unrestricted grants ECPC Sustaining Partners** | 330.000,00 |
| **Project sponsoring (in 2009: ECPC Masterclass Conference)** | 45.000,00 |
| **Cancerworld.org/ESO Sponsoring** | 5.000,00 |
| **EU Funding for EU Research Projects** | 23.085,60 |
| **Other Income** | 1.165,00 |
| **Interests** | 2.072,75 |
| **Refund of expenses** | 411.889,51 |

**571.788,98**

### Expenses/Expenditures

- **200** ECPC projects
- **201** MAC project
- **202** ECPC Masterclass Conference 2009
- **203** EU Research project expenditures

**57.278,25**

### Legal Registration

ECPC is legally registered in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Register Nr. 30211815. Registered address is ECPC, Oosterhaven 29, 1071 AM Medemblik, The Netherlands.

ECPC has nonprofit status (ANBI = Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling, Public Welfare Institution) with fiscal number 816853575, reconfirmed on 23 October 2009 by the Dutch tax authorities in Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.
The European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) and its member organizations call on all candidates for the European Parliament elections to help us fight cancer in their country and across the European Union. One third of EU citizens are diagnosed with cancer and cancer kills about 1.7 million each year. We are aware that there are considerable inequalities in health status and cancer survival rates within and between Member States of the European Union. These inequalities will only increase under the current economic crisis as our health and social systems come under financial pressure.

We call on you to work towards implementing the European Parliament Cancer Resolution by supporting us in our campaign to:

• Encourage and adopt national Charters for patients’ rights according to European guidelines to ensure that the rights of cancer patients are upheld and enforced.

• Urgently develop and, where existing, improve national cancer plans, setting priorities and effectively allocating resources for improving cancer control and research across the European Union, paying attention to rare or difficult to treat cancers.

• Ensure cancer patients are included in formulating and monitoring all research, legislation and policies that affect their health.

• Invest in cancer prevention in Member States and implement the Council Recommendation on Cancer Screening of 2003 by setting up or improving national high quality population-based screening programmes.

• Vigorously promote cancer awareness in the general public through the existing Europe against Cancer Code.

• Make timely, high quality and up to date information, diagnosis, treatment and care available for all cancer patients in each European Member State.

• Firmly tackle the socio-economic and geographic divide, which leads to inequalities in cancer control

• Oppose discrimination in the latest cancer treatment because of age, race, gender and domicile.

How to contact ECPC

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ECPC Website
http://www.ecpc-online.org

Join ECPC

We welcome all European Cancer Patient Organisations as members of ECPC. Membership is free, please contact us at info@ecpc-online.org or visit the ECPC website at http://ecpc-online.org/members to download the application form.

Join us in the fight against cancer!