

A Europe for cancer patients, survivors and carers



MANIFESTO FOR THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019



Every year, more than 3 million people are diagnosed with cancer.

An estimated 3.9 million people were faced with a diagnosis of cancer and 1.9 million have died from cancer in the European Union in 2018.

The right to health is a human right recognised in the international human rights treaties ratified by the Member States. For this right to be guaranteed, access to medicines, treatment and high-quality care must be ensured equally to all cancer patients in the EU. **The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have the power and responsibility to adopt measures** setting high standards for accessibility, quality and safety of medicinal products, treatments and cancer care.

The European Cancer Patient Coalition (representing 448 cancer patient associations in all Member States) in partnership with Members of the European Parliament have achieved a number of accomplishments today, and we count on you to continue our collaboration.

We call on You

... to join our mission in the European Parliament to overcome inequalities in Europe, where all cancer patients have timely and affordable access to the best treatment and care available, throughout their life, by actioning the following.

For more information contact:

Alex Filicevas
Head of EU Affairs

✉ alex.filicevas@ecpc.org
☎ +32 (0) 2 721 41 14

Reduce inequalities

for fast, safe and affordable access to surgery, radiotherapy and medicines

Embrace innovation

in cancer research and treatments

Enable cross-border collaboration

to ensure that cancer patients receive the most appropriate healthcare, regardless of where they reside

Promote survivorship programmes

as an essential part of cancer care at all levels, and formally support the role of cancer carers



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Reduce inequalities for fast, safe and affordable access to surgery, radiotherapy and medicines

- 1 Establish benchmark standards for high-quality surgical care and provide information to patients about surgical practice in all cancer centres.
- 2 Make radiotherapy a central component of cancer care in policies, planning and budgets.
- 3 Adopt patient-centred strategic plans to ensure access to life-saving and essential cancer medicines.
- 4 Propose a new Transparency Directive on European Medicines Agency (EMA) to ensure effective controls and full transparency on pricing and reimbursement procedures of medicines in the Member States.
- 5 Observe and reinforce the EU competition legislation and its competencies on the pharmaceutical market in order to counter the abuse and promote fair prices for patients and the healthcare systems.
- 6 Review the EMA remit and to give consideration to enhancing its remit to coordinate pan-European activity to tackle medicines shortages in the Member States.

Embrace innovation in cancer research and treatments

- 1 Ensure timely approval of the EU HTA Regulation, to create a mandatory common framework for Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and ensure uptake of Joint Clinical Assessments (JCAs) by all Member States, guaranteeing meaningful patient involvement in all relevant areas, in order to assure real cost effective to the treatment.
- 2 Recommend measures to improve the rate of approval of novel therapies and the supply of these to patients and to reinforce the negotiation capacities of Member States.
- 3 Examine existing obstacles to driving innovation in medicines for children in the fields of oncology and promote advancement in research and access in this area.
- 4 Enhance the uptake of innovation and direct EU funds to invest in equipment and training on personalised medicines, surgery and radiotherapy to ensure equal capacity across the EU.

Enable cross-border collaboration to ensure that cancer patients receive the most appropriate healthcare, regardless of where they reside

- 1 Apply the recent European Parliament resolution on the Implementation of the Cross-border Healthcare Directive (CBHD), and continuously assess its implementation in the Member States.
- 2 Facilitate the development of reimbursement procedures in EU Member States, especially to support rare cancer patients, in full implementation of the CBHD.
- 3 Develop a plan for uptake of the Joint Action on Rare Cancers recommendations and their implementation in the European Reference Networks and Member States.
- 4 Drive consensus in the Council of the EU to put forward recommendations on the full implementation of the CBHD, to guarantee it allows patients to seek advice, treatment and care where it is available.

Promote survivorship programmes as an essential part of cancer care at all levels, and formally support the role of cancer carers

- 1 Support the Member States in the implementation of the European Joint Action on Cancer Control policy recommendations for quality improvement in cancer survivorship and rehabilitation in the Member States.
- 2 Allocate adequate funds for research on survivorship to generate data on late effects, as well as on the impact and cost-effectiveness of supportive care, rehabilitation, palliative and psychosocial interventions.
- 3 Implement a pan-European strategy to prevent discrimination against workers with cancer and launch evidence-gathering initiatives to better understand the living conditions of cancer survivors who return to work.
- 4 Develop a common EU framework of social rights for cancer survivors, including financial incentives, non-discriminatory access to financial services such as loans, mortgages and insurance to facilitate reintegration into active life.
- 5 Ensure the effective implementation of the Work-Life Balance Directive and promote the development of tools and indicators to measure the implementation of the Directive and the actual access of carers to other social rights listed in the European Pillar of Social Rights.