



Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS

Member of the European Commission

Berl 08/369
Rue de la Loi, 200
B-1049 Brussels - Belgium
Tel. 00.32.2.295.41.59
e-mail: vytenis.andriukaitis@ec.europa.eu

Profs. Francesco de Lorenzo
President
European Cancer Patient Coalition
40 rue Montoyer
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, **16 MARS 2015**
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Dear Professor de Lorenzo,

Thank you for your letter of 21 January 2015 and the opportunity to meet you on World Cancer Day. I would like to address specifically the issues which are mentioned in your letter as well as in the European Cancer Patients Bill of Rights.

Cancer is a long-standing priority of EU action in the field of public health and covers a wide range of fields of public health, encompassing prevention, information, screening, research as well as the exchange of best practices between Member States.

Indeed, a number of points which are raised in the "European Cancer Patients Bill of Rights" are related to ongoing EU action on cancer. As a Commissioner for Health, my commitment is to address in particular the persisting inequalities in the field of cancer, particularly in areas where the European Union can provide added value.

Regarding the Directive on patients' rights in Cross Border Healthcare, the Commission intends to use all the tools at its disposal to make sure the Member States implement the Directive correctly. The Commission is also facilitating the establishment of European Reference Networks – my intention is that one of the first pilot Networks will be established precisely in the field of pediatric oncology.

We are also closely working with Member States to exchange information and best practices through the Joint Action and the Expert Group, which I believe will have a positive impact on the implementation of National Cancer Control Plans.

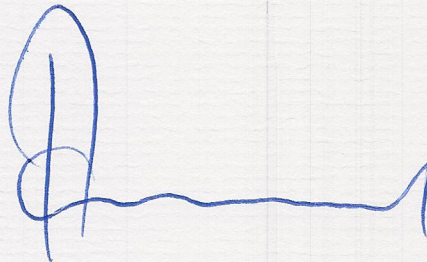
Regarding access to innovative treatments, I would like to draw your attention to projects under the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). Horizon 2020 is pursuing efforts through its *'Health, demographic change and wellbeing'* societal challenge, aimed at delivering personalised health and care, and the 2014-2015 Work Programme offered substantial opportunities for support to cancer research.

In addition, to better understand the causes of inequalities, our work on a European Cancer Information System will be crucial to provide comparable data across Member States.

Finally, let me assure you that I am committed in working closely together with patient representatives and to ensure their representation in all activities fostered by the Commission in this area.

In this regard, I would like to thank the European Cancer Patient Coalition for your active involvement in the framework of the Expert Group, as well as in the Joint Action on Comprehensive Cancer Control, and for your support. I am looking forward to continuing this dialogue with your organisation in the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that ends in a small upward hook.