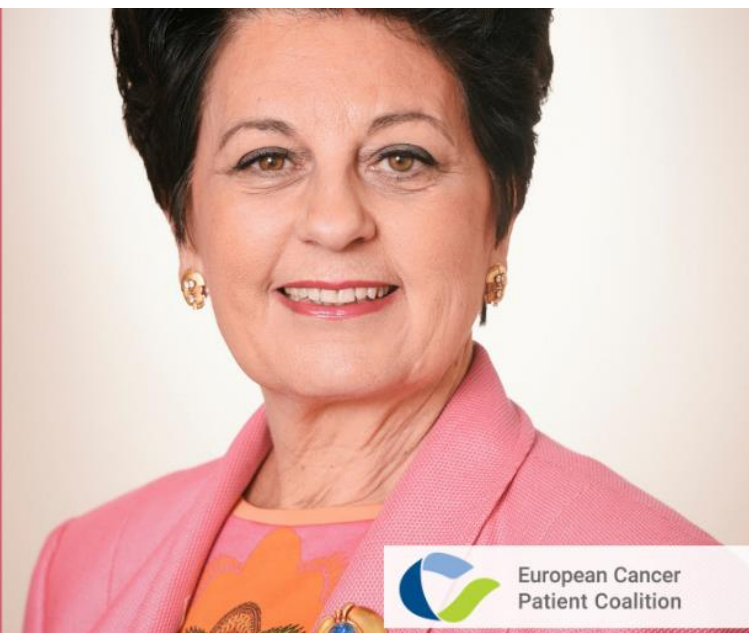




“

*The EU is adept at eliminating national barriers through a joint approach in order to provide its citizens a better quality of life. With the number of cancer survivors increasing daily, I believe survivorship issues should become fully integrated in the EU's intent to provide the highest level of protection of health and consumers rights to eliminate all barriers former cancer patients must overcome.*

*Prof. Françoise Meunier,  
ECPC Scientific Committee Member*



## **The Right to be forgotten for cancer survivors : discussion within the BECA committee**

*11 January 2021*

On 11th January 2021, the MEPs from the Beating Cancer committee discussed “Beating cancer – empowering patients and their caregivers” with ten leading experts in the field.

Mr Bartosz Arłukowicz, Chair of BECA opened the first session of dedicated to Patients’ Rights, including the right to be forgotten, as well as patient-centred healthcare systems.

Prof. Françoise Meunier member of the scientific committee of ECPC was among the expert speakers to present the Right to be forgotten legal initiative, illustrating the key issues of financial discrimination former cancer patients have to overcome after have beating cancer.

Prof. Meunier described the four national legislative Initiatives in force in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They represent encouraging achievements which allow cancer survivors to contract life insurances or other financial instruments such as mortgages and loans, and launch new professional projects without fear of their cancer being used against them.

During her speech, Prof. Meunier stressed the role of EU and its extensive legacy to promote a Right to be Forgotten broadly applicable for equal access to financial services for all cancer survivors across Europe.

In her words, Prof. Meunier highlighted that the Right to be Forgotten has gained significant momentum in the EU. The EU Beating Cancer Plan’s roadmap and the Interim Report of the Cancer



Mission recommend the Right to be Forgotten as an instrument to promote patient's empowerment, equality and avoid discrimination. Besides, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe recently adopted a report on the matter.

Prof. Meunier addressed four key recommendations for the development of an EU long-term strategy to promote social inclusion, and to ensure that cancer survivors never again have to pay twice for their disease:

- 1.** The need to common standards on the Right to be Forgotten under provisions of the TFEU on the Consumer Protection Policy. In this regard, articles 114.3 and 169 provide the legal foundation for this intervention as it states that Consumer Protection will take into account scientific facts and contribute to protecting the economic interests of consumers.
- 2.** As an alternative approach, the adoption of a new European legislative initiative, namely a regulation, able to ensure a common legal framework among EU Countries on the Right to be Forgotten for cancer patients to avoid discrimination, strengthening social rights for cancer survivors.
- 3.** Increased support for multidisciplinary research on cancer survivorship, the improvement of infrastructure and databases to collect long-term data on cancer survivorship through initiatives such as the Beating Cancer Plan and the Cancer Mission.
- 4.** The formalisation of an EU Cancer Survivorship day which every year to raise awareness of the problems cancer survivors must overcome.

Finally, Prof. Meunier announced an online event on the Right to be Forgotten “14 Million reasons to discuss life after cancer: implementing the Right to be Forgotten across Europe”. The event will be on 19<sup>th</sup> February and hosted by MEP Manuel Pizarro, MEP Tilly Metz and MEP Tomislav Sokol with the participation of EU Commissioner Stella Kyriakides.

To watch the full video of Prof. Meunier contribution, please click [here](#).