



Dear Friends of the European Cancer Patient Coalition,

with the holidays season approaching, I would like to wish you Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas for those of you who celebrate it, and Happy New Year on behalf of the ECPC Board and the Secretariat!

As we look to the **new year full of expectations**, let me say a few words about the one that is ending. The year 2020 was particularly difficult for the cancer community worldwide. The coronavirus pandemic has been endangering cancer patients directly and indirectly, it has severely disrupted cancer care, revealed weaknesses of health systems, and still it will have a significant impact on new cancer diagnosis in the following years.

On the other hand, the promise of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides to come up with a plan on how to beat cancer and the **Mission on Cancer's** goal to conquer cancer is a clear message for patients and patient advocates that the position of cancer as a European priority to be tackled did not subside.

«The Coronavirus pandemic has been

Thus, I see the year **2021** to be full of **changes and opportunities** for our community and particularly for ECPC being the largest cancer patient association in Europe.

As the ECPC President, I am truly **committed to promote patients' equality in cancer treatment and better quality of life for cancer patients** and cancer survivors, in all of Europe. For that reason, during my mandate, I will focus on working more closely with our members and all relevant stakeholders. Each one of you play an essential role and together we can defend the rights of cancer patients.

«I see the year 2021 to be full of changes and opportunities for our community»

In this regard, **active collaboration is key** to increase the quality of life of cancer patients. Working together is the way to obtain successful results as well as develop tools to advance health care and cancer policies in Europe and beyond.

Remember, together we are stronger!

With the warmest regards,

Ken Mastris,
ECPC President





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