



For Immediate Release

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BRUSSELS' CANCER COMMUNITY UNITES ON WORLD CANCER DAY

Cancer Research UK, Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL), the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE) and ECCO - The European Cancer Organisation have come together to mark World Cancer Day in the European Parliament, Strasbourg, France.

The organisations have been in the European Parliament all week, speaking about the key issues that affect cancer patients today. Ahead of World Cancer Day, tonight's evening reception organised by Glenis Willmott MEP outlines some of the EU's recent achievements in the fight against the disease and put forward actions to beat cancer sooner in Europe.

Catherine Guinard, EU Public Affairs Manager at Cancer Research UK said *"Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Europe and, with people living longer, the number of cases will continue to grow. Political action is needed now to make sure we have evidence-based policies that put cancer patients first. World Cancer Day is a moment to remember the duty we have to Europe's cancer patients, and the opportunities we have to make change happen."*

"World Cancer Day is an important occasion to note that action is needed along all aspects of cancer control, from prevention to patient support, treatment and rehabilitation", noted Kate O'Regan, Policy Officer at the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL). *"The European Code against Cancer is a key tool in reminding citizens that your cancer risk can be reduced by adopting a healthier lifestyle and making healthier choices such as practising physical activity or refraining from tobacco use. ECL is very proud to support these messages on the policy level by providing the Secretariat to the MEPs against Cancer (MAC) all party group on cancer in the European Parliament, and working closely with our member leagues to ensure national cooperation."*

Gilles Vassal, Past President and Board Member of SIOPE said: *"Cancer remains the first cause of death by disease for children in Europe, and the majority of survivors experience serious late effects. It is imperative that policy makers and indeed all stakeholders cooperate to urgently solve these issues. One of the most pressing needs is to increase and accelerate paediatric cancer drug development. The childhood cancer community including parents, patients and survivors developed a common vision to address such key issues - the [SIOPE European Cancer Plan for Children and Adolescents](#). We look forward to implementing it with all stakeholders to achieve a brighter future for children and adolescents with cancer."*

Ian Banks, Chair of the ECCO Patient Advisory Committee said: *"As an organisation uniting multidisciplinary cancer professionals, what ECCO is looking at now is a much closer involvement with the patient voice, with the patient representatives, and with the patients themselves in the way that we put oncology together, the way that we structure the policy for better early diagnosis, for better management, and for better survivorship in cancer. And critically of course, all of this will be the better prevention of cancer in the first place. The motto has to be for us, as an organisation, in 2016, that I can, we can and ECCO can."*



ENDS

For media enquiries related to Cancer Research UK please contact Greg Jones on 020 3469 8311 or, out-of-hours, the duty press officer on 07050 264 059

About Cancer Research UK

- Cancer Research UK is the world's leading cancer charity dedicated to saving lives through research.
- Cancer Research UK's pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer has helped save millions of lives.
- Cancer Research UK receives no government funding for its life-saving research. Every step it makes towards beating cancer relies on every pound donated.
- Cancer Research UK has been at the heart of the progress that has already seen survival in the UK double in the last forty years.
- Today, 2 in 4 people survive their cancer for at least 10 years. Cancer Research UK's ambition is to accelerate progress so that 3 in 4 people will survive their cancer for at least 10 years within the next 20 years.
- Cancer Research UK supports research into all aspects of cancer through the work of over 4,000 scientists, doctors and nurses.
- Together with its partners and supporters, Cancer Research UK's vision is to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, please call 0300 123 1022 or visit www.cancerresearchuk.org. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

About the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

The vision of Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) is for a Europe Free of Cancers. The role of ECL is to facilitate the collaboration between cancer leagues throughout Europe and to influence EU and pan-European policies. The mission of the Association of European Cancer Leagues is to influence and improve cancer control and cancer care in Europe through collaboration between its members in their fight against cancer, and to influence EU and pan-European policies. ECL is proud to provide the Secretariat for the MEPs against Cancer group in the European Parliament. For more information, see www.europeancancerleagues.org and www.mepsagainstcancer.eu. Check out the full European Code against Cancer on www.cancercode.eu for more information on how you can adopt a healthier lifestyle and reduce your risk of cancer.

About ECCO - The European CanCER Organisation

Through its 23 Member Societies - representing over 80 000 professionals - ECCO is the only multidisciplinary organisation that connects and responds to all stakeholders in oncology Europe-wide.

ECCO is a not-for-profit federation that exists to uphold the right of all European cancer patients to the best possible treatment and care, promoting interaction between all organisations involved in cancer at European level.

For more information, visit www.ecco-org.eu



About the European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOPE)

SIOPE, the European Society for Paediatric Oncology, is the only pan-European organisation representing all professionals working in the field of childhood cancers in close cooperation with parents, patients and survivors. With more than 1,500 members across 31 European countries, today SIOPE is leading the way to ensure the best possible care and outcomes for all children and adolescents with cancer across Europe. www.siope.eu

SIOPE supports paediatric cancer professionals to do their best work in several areas, from treatment and care to research and therapeutic innovation, from long-term follow up to education, and it widely disseminates key information and facilitates regular exchange between professionals, patients, parents and survivors and other stakeholders who can make a difference – other professionals and patients, pharmaceutical organisations, policy-makers, etc.

The SIOPE Strategic Plan - endorsed by all partners in the field - aims to a future where no child dies of cancer and survivors live to the fullest. As a 'European Childhood Cancer Plan', it is based on 7 key objectives and will inspire all future initiatives in this field.

http://www.siope.eu/SIOPE_StrategicPlan2015/#