



EUROPEAN
CANCER
PATIENT
COALITION



2nd Summit Cancer Patients
Advocacy Groups
in Central and Eastern Europe



Slovenian Summit
3-5 November 2006

WARSAW DECLARATION

Five years after The Charter of Paris Against Cancer was adopted at the first World Cancer Summit the situation of cancer patients in CEE countries is still dramatic.

Whereas

Total health expenditure as proportion of GDP in CEE countries is less than in the European Union.

Survival rates for every type of cancer are lower than in the rest of Europe.

Inadequate health prevention measures such as opportunistic screening, delay in early diagnosis and innovative treatment, lack of best quality care account for the poor cancer control in CEE countries.

Public awareness and understanding of cancers and their prevention, robust anti-smoking campaigns, promotion of healthier life-styles are low or fragmented.

According to WHO predictions, cancer is expected to increase to epidemic proportions due to the ageing population all across Europe, including CEE and Accession Countries.

Recommendations

Because good health is a basic human aspiration;

Because all European Governments share the goal of protecting and improving their citizens' health and well-being;

Because the right to health protection is enshrined in the European Treaties;

We, the signatories call on policy makers, politicians and key stakeholders urgently to:

1. Develop national cancer plans, setting priorities and allocating resources, for improving cancer control and research in all CEE countries and assure patients' groups monitoring over the implementation of these plans.
2. Invest in cancer prevention by promoting awareness, information and education campaigns about the risk factors of cancer, building on the European Code against Cancer.
3. Invest in national screening programmes as recommended by the European Union; and implement high quality EU standards to support early diagnosis.
4. Make high quality up-to-date treatment, rehabilitation and care attainable for all cancer patients throughout Europe.
5. Encourage and ensure patient participation in all decisions on health policy and health care affecting cancer.
6. Advance cancer control as a priority for action where necessary to qualify for grants from the EU Structural Funds.
7. Oppose discrimination because of age, race, gender, domicile and economic status in respect of the latest cancer treatment.
8. Encourage and adopt national Charters of Patients' Rights according to European guidelines.

ADOPTED AND SIGNED UNANIMOUSLY BY 143 PATIENT GROUP REPRESENTATIVES WHO ATTENDED THE WARSAW SUMMIT NOVEMBER 2005.
ADOPTED AND SIGNED BY 120 DELEGATES ATTENDING THE ECPC MASTERCLASS IN MAY 2006 IN MILAN.

YOUR SIGNATURE:

