

Brussels, 13/09/21

## Open letter

To:

*Chair, Vice-Chairs, Coordinators, Rapporteur & Shadow-Rapporteurs, and Members of the Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA)*

### **Increasing the early diagnosis of lung cancer in Europe: an essential milestone to tackle the biggest cancer killer**

Dear MEPs,

The European Respiratory Society (ERS), together with the undersigned **53 organisations**, urges you to take into account the importance of lung cancer early diagnosis in achieving the goals of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan while tabling the amendments to the draft report of the BECA Committee.

We have followed the successive BECA hearings with great attention and fully agree with the dedicated session on lung cancer early detection which stressed that lung cancer screening programmes reduce mortality. Lung cancer is currently the biggest cancer killer in Europe and results in immense suffering for many European citizens, as the disease is often diagnosed at a late stage.

Despite new diagnostic techniques and many scientific advances, for example in identifying genetic alterations and developing more targeted therapies, we are not sufficiently improving the rates of early diagnosis in Europe. The Beating Cancer Plan rightfully places the emphasis on early detection and its importance in saving lives but it misses clear objectives to make a tangible impact on people at risk of, and living with lung cancer. **We therefore propose to include the following target in the BECA report: to increase the early diagnosis of lung cancer by 20% by 2030.**

To achieve this ambitious yet realistic goal, we deem it essential to urge the Commission to:

- 1) Extend the Council recommendations on cancer screening to lung cancer by 2022,
- 2) Support projects, for example via EU4health, the Cancer Mission or other relevant programmes to explore the barriers limiting the early detection and early diagnosis of the deadliest cancers in Europe,
- 3) Put forward a Union-wide awareness campaign to boost efforts to improve public awareness of the importance of early detection of cancer, enhance early diagnosis and increase survivorship,
- 4) Connect the wealth of expertise in Europe via cross border collaborations such as multidisciplinary centers of excellence.

It is time for Europe, now more than ever, to act and lead the way on lung cancer early diagnosis. **We ask your support in including these recommendations in the BECA report.** This would send a strong signal on the crucial importance of early diagnosis in lung cancer prevention and treatment but also of your commitment to reduce the burden of the biggest cancer killer in Europe.

We thank you for your consideration and remain at your disposal should you have any question.

Kind regards,

***The European Respiratory Society, supported by the undersigned 53 organisations:***

All.Can International

Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer – Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC)

Asociación Española de Afectados de Cáncer de Pulmón – Spanish Association of Lung Cancer Patients (AEACaP)

Associazione Insieme per i Pazienti di Oncologia Polmonare – Italian Association of Lung Cancer Patients (IPOP)

Belgian Respiratory Society

Bundesverband Selbsthilfe Lungenkrebs e.V. - German Association for Self-Help Lung Cancer

Cancer Research UK

Ceská Pneumologická a Ftizeologická Společnost – Czech Pneumological and Phthiseological Society (CPFS)

De l’Air! – French Lung Cancer Patient’s Association

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Pneumologie und Beatmungsmedizin e.V. – German Respiratory Society

Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft – German Cancer Society

Društvo Onkoloških Bolnikov Slovenije – Cancer Patient’s Association of Slovenia

Eesti Kopsuarstide Selts – Estonian Respiratory Society

European Association for Cancer Research (EACR)

European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)

European Chronic Disease Alliance (ECDA)

European Lung Foundation (ELF)

European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention (ENSP)

European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)

European School of Oncology (ESO)

European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)

European Society for Radiology (ESR)

European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM)

European Society of Oncology Imaging (ESOI)

European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO)

European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS)

Fair Life Lung Cancer Care

Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Milan – National Cancer Institute of Milan

Foundation against Cancer

International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)

Irish Cancer Society

Irish Thoracic Society (ITS)

Italian Thoracic Society – Associazione Italiana Pneumologi Ospedalieri (ITS-AIPO)

KWF Kankerbestrijding - Dutch Cancer Society (KWF)

Longkanker Nederland – Dutch Lung Cancer Society

Lung Cancer Europe (LuCE)

Magyar Tüdőgyógyász Társaság - Hungarian Respiratory Society

Nederlandse Vereniging van Artsen voor Longziekten en Tuberculose - Dutch Association of Physicians for Pulmonary Diseases and Tuberculosis (NVALT)

Netherlands Respiratory Society (NRS)

Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI)

Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Pneumologie – Austrian Society of Pneumology (ÖGP)

Polskie Amazonki Ruch Społeczny - Polish Amazons Social Movement (PARS)

Polskie Towarzystwo Chorób Płuc - Polish Respiratory Society (PTChP)

Polskie Towarzystwo Kardio-Torakochirurgów - Polish Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (PTKT)

Pulmonale Associação Portuguesa de Luta Contra o Cancro do Pulmão – Portuguese Association for the Fight Against Lung Cancer

Sociedad Española de Neumología y Cirugía Torácica - Spanish Society of Pneumology and Thoracic Surgery (SEPAR)

Sociedade Portuguesa de Pneumologia – Portuguese Respiratory Society (SPP)

Societatea Română de Pneumologie – Romanian Society of Pneumology (SRP)

Société de Pneumologie de Langue Française – French-Speaking Respiratory Society (SPLF)

Société Suisse de Pneumologie - Swiss Society of Pneumology (SSP)

The Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society

Women Against Lung Cancer in Europe (WALCE)

Ελληνική Πνευμονολογική Εταιρεία - Hellenic Thoracic Society



**Logos:**



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German  
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EACR European Association  
for Cancer Research





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