

Loukas Furlas was born in 1969 in Limassol. He is a graduate of the Economics as well as of the Political Sciences of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He served as Vice President of PROTOPORIA – student political department of the Democratic Rally and also as President of EFEK – National Student Union of Cypriots in Thessaloniki. After obtaining his degrees, he attended with a scholarship in 2006 Research Journalism and International Crisis Coverage at the Universities of Columbia and George Washington in the USA.

He worked for 23 years as a journalist. During his career, he was a political editor, editor-in-chief and was presenting newscasts and central newsletters on state and private television. For seven years, he presented the award winning broadcast (EXEIS MEΣON – EXEIS MESON), which was giving the opportunity to the citizens to call live and publicize the problems they were facing. Loucas Furlas was also collaborating with Greek Television Media for many years.

Besides his professional and political activities during the student's period of life, Loucas Furlas has been a Press Secretary for the candidate of Presidential Election of 2008, Mr. Ioannis Kasoulidis. He was also the first in history of the island Press Secretary of the House of Representatives from 2017 to 2019.

Last but not least, Loucas Furlas is also well known for his intense social activity. He is Ambassador of the Charity Foundation “HOPE” and founder of the philanthropic organization “Little Heroes” - children who suffer from cancer.

## **My vision**

In recent years, I have been actively involved in the fight against the scourge of cancer through actions aimed at promoting its prevention and early detection. The goal is to improve the life quality of all people who suffer from cancer and also of their relatives who are struggling with them. I strongly support holistic patient care and strongly believe that implementing a cancer plan and universal healthcare coverage is imperative in order to improve the results of cancer treatment, control and prevention, across Europe.

My vision was realized with the signing of the Manifesto Against Cancer, which aims to formulate policies with key pillars of activity prevention, ensuring high quality treatment for all patients and involvement of them in formulating Health policies.

My participation in this group today is a statement of my intention to work with all my strengths on cancer issues with a particular emphasis on pediatric oncology and pediatric palliative care. That was one of my primary goals when I participated in the recent European elections, and that was my main promise to Cypriot voters. The same priority, the same goal, is shared by the EPP group of which I am a member and which considers the fight against cancer as a top European priority.

I declare my readiness as a mere soldier, in the deployment of the new Europe Horizon program which sets as a key objective the reinforcement of innovation in public health with a particular emphasis on research as well as its social and environmental factors.

I am seeking to claim as much funding as possible for the development of strategic partnerships, innovative methods and tools that will effectively

contribute to prevention and early diagnosis, control, equal access to new innovative therapies and also to patient's involvement in decision-making for improvement quality of life for both themselves and their families.

It is worth noting that with Cypriot candidate Commissioner for Health Stella Kyriakidou, we have worked closely in recent years on combating cancer and supporting families, objective which is her top priority for the next five years.

Part of my actions is the creation of the non-profit organization "Little Heroes". Through "Little Heroes" a large amount of money has been donated to children who are fighting for their lives at the Pediatric Oncology Hospital in my country, so that they can be recovered also abroad.

Knowing and understanding the journey of the patient and his family, having also experienced myself the needs that are being created, I joined the fight against cancer across Europe.

The President's honorary position in the MEPs group against cancer is the continuation of my voluntary actions to raise awareness and inform the public. My vision is to design and adopt a common European Cancer Strategy. I express my commitment to this and my full commitment to its organization and implementation. Because, no child should fight alone!