



## The Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) launches first ever EU-wide collaborative network aiming to put an end to the escalating costs of cancer medicines

**Brussels, Belgium – ECL**, a European umbrella NGO representing national and regional cancer societies, **today officially announced and launched the first ever EU-wide collaborative network to improve transparency, access and affordability of cancer medicines for the benefits of cancer patients.**

Population aging and the rising number of cancer cases across Europe has led to a dramatic increase in health systems' **expenditure on cancer medicines**. However, such an increase in expenditure on cancer therapies cannot be justified by the rising incidence of cancer alone. Lack of **adequate access to both new and off-patent essential cancer medicines remains an issue** - with high prices often cited as the main contributory factor. Overall **prices of cancer medicines continue to rise, to the extent of impairing the capacity of health systems to provide affordable, population-wide access to cancer medicines.**

In response to this, European cancer societies and cancer research institutes decided to join forces and found the **European Fair Pricing Network (EFPN)**.

Nicolas Philippou, member of ECL Executive Board and co-founder of the EFPN, said:



@philippoun

*"People across Europe rightly expect to benefit from adequate access to safe and effective treatments. **Everywhere we turn, we hear stories, some heartbreaking, about the impact of the escalating costs of cancer medicines on cancer patients and their families.** We are launching the EFPN initiative with patient advocates and researchers side by side to gather necessary data to enable evidence-based decision-making which ultimately results in access to readily available treatments which health systems can afford."*

What makes the EFPN unique are its coordinated and interlinked research and patient advocacy efforts. EFPN aims to achieve fair prices for cancer medicines and works towards a sustainable pharmaceutical system which produces accessible, affordable and truly innovative medicines for patients. Hence, this **initiative is in line with the priorities outlined in the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.**



Dr. Ward Rommel, Chair of the ECL Access to Medicines Task Forces said :



@WardRommel

“All members of our **network share a deep conviction that increased transparency will contribute to better access to safe and effective medicines.** We seek to collect and analyse high quality data, measuring (i) availability of selected treatments across Europe; (ii) their price differences; (iii) the extent of public investment in their development; and (iv) the relationship between the price and the drug’s efficacy. **We aim to shed light on medicine pricing and translate our findings into concrete policy asks for national and European decision-makers.”**

Medicine prices issues are incredibly complex and there are no simple solutions. These issues are so urgent, so high-stakes, and so consistent with European policy priorities that can no longer be ignored. **The establishment of EFPN is a major step towards ensuring fair pricing and prompt access to effective cancer medicines for all patients across Europe.** By better linking research to policy-making, EFPN will be able to estimate the size of the problem and come up with possible pathways towards a fair and transparent market for much needed cancer treatments.

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### About the European Fair Pricing Network (EFPN)

The European Fair Pricing Network (EFPN) aims to achieve fair prices for cancer medicines and works towards a sustainable pharmaceutical market which produces accessible, affordable and truly innovative medicines for patients. In 2020, 10 cancer societies invested €1 million to team up with cancer research institutes over the next four years to find out: (i) Which medicines are available for specific populations/population subgroups?; (ii) At which (net) price are the medicines available?; (iii) How much did cancer societies and the public (taxpayers) invest in the development of these medicines?; (iv) Is the public getting the value for money in terms of effective treatments?; and (v) How to reorganise innovation to better address patient needs. The Network will then translate research findings into tangible political asks directed at both national and European decision-makers.

**#EFPN4Meds**

**www.efpn.eu** (coming soon)

### About the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

ECL provides a unique platform as the only non-profit, pan-European umbrella organisation with the mission of uniting, at the European level, national and regional cancer leagues to achieve a cancer-free Europe. Active since 1980 and located in Brussels, ECL currently has 30 members from 25 countries in the European Region, covering 20 EU member states. ECL’s members are cancer charities operating across the whole cancer continuum - from cancer research and awareness to patient support during and after diagnosis. ECL is a partner of the EFPN initiative through its Access to Medicines Task Force.

**#LetsTalkAccess**

**#FairPrice4Meds**

**@CancerLeagues**

**www.cancer.eu**

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