



Dear MEP Artukowicz,

Dear honourable Members of the European Parliament,

Dear BECA Secretariat,

On behalf of the [Association of European Cancer Leagues \(ECL\)](#), it was a great pleasure speaking and attending with you the 9th hearing of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA) on "[Sharing knowledge and data, improving cross-border care to beat cancer](#)" on the 15th of April 2021.

Thank you for inviting me and for the important questions you put forward during the hearing. This hearing was held at a very timely moment, as **more cooperation and dialogue is needed among European youth and decision-makers.** I was very pleased that myself and Ms Coutinho were given this platform, as young advocates. **It is essential that young cancer prevention advocates make their voices heard in matters that impact them and their communities.**

Promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness of the evidence-based messages within the [European Code Against Cancer \(ECAC\)](#) have always been important issues for ECL and our [68 Youth Ambassadors](#) from across Europe. In particular, the Advocacy Working Group is a vital element of the [ECL Youth Ambassadors programme](#) through which young professionals and students like me get empowered to **share knowledge of EU initiatives and policies related to cancer at the national, regional and local level in our countries.** We also **lobby our national governments to invest generously in cancer prevention** and implement evidence-based prevention strategies.

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected all aspects of cancer control, including cancer prevention. In the coming years, **ECL Youth Ambassadors will play a crucial role in restoring confidence both in the safety of participation in cancer screening** and its effectiveness as well as in **using non-traditional communication platforms to educate young people about how they can reduce their personal cancer risk.**

To accomplish more and to improve cancer control in Europe, **ECL Youth Ambassadors are calling for increased collaboration in cancer prevention efforts and raising awareness of the European Code Against Cancer messages among European youth, scientists, policy-makers, and stakeholders.**

We thank you for your attention and ongoing commitment to improving EU policy on cancer. Myself and the ECL Secretariat remain available for any further questions and stand ready to work with the European Parliament. We look forward to continuing conversations about youth involvement in promoting the messages of the European Code Against Cancer.

Yours sincerely,



Krassimira Zaykova

ECL Youth Ambassador for the European Code Against Cancer for Bulgaria

Brussels, 21 April 2021