



ECL ANNUAL MEETING

European Cancer Leagues

address quality control and improvement of cancer care in
Europe as major tasks



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Berlin - Members (and invited experts) of the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) gathered this week from 26 countries all over Europe to discuss the achievements and future challenges of cancer care in Europe.

The hosting organization, the German Cancer Society, opened the meeting with an expert briefing on the how essential structural and research aspects on quality have been developed in Germany.

Dr. Johannes Bruns, General Secretary of the German Cancer Society, said, "within the last four years, 240.000 patients annually had their primary tumours treated in a centre certified by the German Cancer Society's voluntary cancer centre certification programme. With the number of certified centres outside Germany constantly increasing, the German Cancer Society's certification system has now become the largest in Europe. This provides exciting new opportunities to compare the quality of care not only within different regions of one country, but also across countries."



The leagues also addressed the important issue of access to cancer medicines, where Prof Andreas Hochhaus, Board member of the German Cancer Society, outlined issues with shortages of cancer medicines in Germany. ECL followed by taking the discussion beyond Germany guided by the recent ECL 'Let's Talk Access' White Paper on tackling challenges in access to medicines. This session was concluded with a video message from Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.



In his speech, Dr. Andriukaitis thanked ECL for its continuous support, and called for leagues to back the Commission's legislative proposal on European collaboration in Health Technology Assessment (HTA).

The day concluded with a discussion around complementary and alternative medicines, led by Nanna Cornelius of the Danish Cancer Society. Leagues were provided an insight on what patients need to know in this area, given the enormous amount of information, including fake news and uncertain sources.

Dr. Sakari Karjalainen, ECL President, stated, "the ECL Board is pleased for this year's Annual Conference to address the issue of quality of cancer care, which can differ tremendously from one country to another. ECL annual meetings allow different countries to share their expertise and experiences and to learn from each other."

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

About the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

The vision of Association of European Cancer Leagues is for a Europe Free of Cancers. The role of the Association of European Cancer Leagues is to facilitate the collaboration between cancer leagues throughout Europe and to influence EU and pan-European policies. The mission of the Association of European Cancer Leagues is to influence and improve cancer control and cancer care in Europe through collaboration between its members in their fight against cancer. For further information about ECL, please call +32 (0) 2 256 2000 or visit our [website](#).

About the German Cancer Society

The German Cancer Society includes more than 8,000 individual scientific members organized in 25 working groups, 16 regional cancer societies and 39 sponsors from research-based pharmaceutical industries, scientific publishers and health insurances. Our members are active in the research and treatment of cancer with the aim to address our joint goal: the fight against cancer. The society is not only open to clinical experts of all relevant medical specialties, but also to basic researchers, medical technicians, nurses, psychologists and many other professional groups working in the field of oncology. The certification program of the German Cancer Society was developed to improve cancer care in Germany and offers patients a treatment that is based on high quality standards at every stage of their disease. For further information, visit their [website](#).

