



Launch of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer

The European Commission is launching the **European Partnership for Action Against Cancer** on 29 September 2009 in Brussels. This high-profile event will be opened by the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and hosted by Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou.

We are proud that the **International Brain Tumour Alliance (IBTA)** has been asked to contribute two stories from brain tumour patients from Italy and Sweden. This is a welcome opportunity to raise more awareness about brain tumours, a rare, devastating and seriously debilitating cancer. Our patients' faces are now firmly on the European cancer map, joining the 3,2 million EU citizens diagnosed with cancer each year. This gives us confidence that the patients' voice, including that of rare cancers, will be listened to and included when the Partnership develops its actions. These are outlined in the "**Communication Action Against Cancer: European Partnership**" which broadly sets out the objectives for the initiative.

The overarching aim is to encourage and support EU member states in their efforts to tackle cancer by providing a framework in the form of National Cancer Plans. We are hopeful that the initiative receives wide ranging commitment and support and that it will help to improve the lives of cancer patients.

We congratulate the Commission on having taken such an innovative Partnership approach to tackle cancer more forcefully across all countries of the European Union. Given this unique opportunity to reduce the burden of cancer, our organization calls on our governments, politicians, policymakers and all stakeholders and sectors of society to participate and work together as partners.

The International Brain Tumour Alliance stands ready to contribute our part to help reduce the burden of cancer in Europe and across the world.

For more information about the Cancer Partnership and the Communication in all EU languages

See: http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/diseases/cancer_partnership_en.htm

Use of the European Cancer Partnership logo by kind permission from the European Commission