

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEPATITIS RELATED CANCER  
PREVENTION IN EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE LIVER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH  
(THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER, 10:00 – 11:00 CET)

### Why such an event?

October is *Liver Cancer Awareness Month* (LCAM). This year, LCAM is only a few weeks prior to the vote of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Cancer (BECA) on its report on the implementation of the European Commission's Beating Cancer Plan. With our event, we would like to

- raise awareness of the opportunities in significantly reducing the burden of liver cancer by better tackling viral hepatitis B and C.
- discuss these with EU policymakers in view of the cancer prevention initiatives mentioned in the Beating Cancer Plan (e.g. the European Code Against Cancer, EU Mobile App for Cancer Prevention, initiatives targeted at vulnerable populations, the planned Council Recommendation on vaccine preventable cancers, etc.)

### 1. SPEAKERS & MODERATOR

- Two hepatologists from [EASL](#) to share the specialist perspective on on the liver cancer burden, its links with hepatitis B and C, and the opportunities for hepatitis-related cancer prevention.
- A hepatitis patient representative from [ACHIEVE](#) on the need for better information on viral hepatitis as a cancer preventable risk factor.
- A European Commission officer to outline relevant initiatives on cancer prevention in the Cancer Plan and next steps regarding their implementation
- Members of the BECA Committee to discuss the cancer prevention initiatives in the Cancer Plan and their implementation.
- Professional moderator: Sue Saville.

### 2. AGENDA (1 HOUR):

5'	<b>Opening remarks:</b> MEP Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Chair of the 'Challenge Cancer' Intergroup
15'	<b>Scientific perspective:</b> EASL representatives Prof. Peter Jepsen (EASL Policy and Public Health Committee Member) and Prof. Maria Buti (EASL EU Policy Councillor)

10'	<b>Commission perspective:</b> Dr. Matthias Schuppe, European Commission, Cancer Team Leader [TBC]
10'	<b>Patient perspective:</b> Hepatitis patient representative and ACHIEVE Co-Chair George Kalamitsis
15'	<p><b>MEP discussion</b></p> <p>Prof Romana Jerkovic MEP (S&amp;D, ENVI &amp; BECA)</p> <p>MEP Sara Cerdas (S&amp;D, ENVI &amp; BECA) [TBC]</p> <p>MEP Lídia Pereira (S&amp;D, ENVI &amp; BECA) [TBC]</p>
5'	<b>Concluding remarks:</b> MEP Radan Kanev, Member of the ENVI Committee

The event will be moderated by Sue Saville

### 3 . ANNEX

#### **Hepatitis and Liver Cancer – Europe’s deadliest preventable cancer**

Viral hepatitis B and C, recognised by WHO as cancer preventable risk factors, are responsible for up to 78% of liver cancer cases worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Hepatitis B is preventable with a safe and effective vaccine and treatments exist to control it. Hepatitis C is curable. In the European Union, around 10 million people live with chronic hepatitis B and C and a majority are undiagnosed.<sup>2</sup> Every year up to 90,000 people with chronic viral hepatitis develop liver cancer<sup>3</sup>. Liver cancer has the lowest survival rate among all cancers monitored by the European Commission,<sup>4</sup> making it the deadliest preventable cancer in the EU. Modelling suggest that cancer prevention efforts targeting viral hepatitis C could reduce liver cancer incidence by 70% and liver-related death by 65%,<sup>5</sup> especially among high-risk groups who are associated with higher incidence rates.<sup>6</sup> In order to prevent liver cancer, we need to fully exploit opportunities to vaccinate for hepatitis B, raise awareness of the transmission risk for viral hepatitis B and C, identify the large number of those undiagnosed and ensure their linkage to treatment.