



LTPC Uniting for Prostate Cancer Event.

Advancing Screening and Care in the EU

5 December, 09:00-11:00

CONTENTS

LTPC Uniting for Prostate Cancer Event.....	3
Key Takeaways From The Event.....	4
Key Messages From The Event	4
What's Next?.....	8

Participants

Lutz Dommel (moderator), CEO, RPP Group (LTPC Secretariat)

European Parliament

Romana Jerković (host), Member of the European Parliament (Croatia, S&D)

Laurent Castillo, Member of the European Parliament (France, EPP)

Vytenis Andriukaitis, Member of the European Parliament (Lithuania, S&D)

András Kulja, Member of the European Parliament (Hungary, EPP)

Ondřej Dostál, Member of the European Parliament (Czech Republic, N/A)

European Commission

Jan-Willem van de Loo, Cancer Theme Lead, European Commission (DG RTD)

National Authorities

Giuseppe Gorini, Head for Screening Evaluation, Clinical and Governance Support, Institute for Cancer Research, Prevention, and Clinical Network (ISPRO) – *online*

Ondrej Majek, Scientific Lead of the National Screening Centre, Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic - *online*

Ana Marina Tarrazo Antelo, Advisor, Early Detection of Diseases Service of the General Directorate of Public Health, Galician Ministry of Health – *online*

LTPC experts

Hendrik van Poppel, Chairman of the European Association of Urology's Policy Office and former Chairman of the Department of Urology at the University Hospital Gasthuisberg, Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven

André Deschamps, Former Chairman, Europa Uomo, and President of Wij Ook

Jacqueline Daly, Director, East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support

Philip Reynolds, Consultant Therapeutic Radiographer in Prostate Radiotherapy, Honorary Lecturer University of Liverpool, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust - *online*

Key Cancer Policy Stakeholders

Antonella Cardone, CEO, Cancer Patients Europe

Sarah Collen, EU Policy Manager, PRAISE-U (European Association of Urology)

Richard Price, Head of Policy, European Cancer Organization

Eduardo Pisani, CEO, All.Can International



The event focused on advancing discussion on the need for early screening and detection of prostate cancer in the EU in order to enhance patient outcomes. A diverse array of speakers shared their perspectives on the EU's achievements and the persistent challenges facing the prostate cancer community. Patients and patient advocates shared personal experiences, highlighting the human aspect of treating prostate cancer. Representatives from the European Commission, cancer patient organisations, and regional authorities from Italy, Spain, and the Czech Republic discussed how policy cooperation can support screening programs and shared best practices for Member State implementation. Key opinion leaders from the European Association of Urology, the European Cancer Organisation, and All. Can International also provided their views on what they hope to see in the upcoming mandate.

LTPC Uniting for Prostate Cancer Event

The LTPC event, ***“Uniting for Prostate Cancer: Advancing Screening and Care in the EU,”*** took place on 5 December at the European Parliament, in Brussels. Hosted by MEP Romana Jerkovic, the event brought together EU policymakers, patients representatives, regional healthcare authorities, healthcare providers, and key stakeholders in the cancer space to discuss the importance of enhancing early screening and detection practices for prostate cancer in the EU.

The event focused on advancing discussion on the need for early screening and detection of prostate cancer in the EU to enhance patient outcomes. A diverse array of speakers shared their perspectives on the EU's achievements and the persistent challenges facing the prostate cancer community. Patient representatives shared personal experiences, highlighting the human aspect of treating prostate cancer. Representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, cancer patient organisation, and regional authorities from Italy, Spain, and the Czech Republic discussed how policy cooperation can support screening programs and shared best practices for Member State implementation. Key opinion leaders from the European Association of Urology, the European Cancer Organisation, and All.Can International also provided their views on what they hope to see in the upcoming mandate.

The LTPC Expert Group is co-chaired by MEPs Romana Jerkovic, Andras Kulja, Laurent Castillo, and Ondrej Dostal, and it integrates a wide group of experts representing EU organisations including the European Association of Urology (EAU), Europa Uomo, European Oncology Nursing Society (EONS), and the European Association of Urology Nurses (EAUN).



Key Takeaways From The Event

- **Urgent Need for Early Detection and Organised Screening:** Early detection improves quality of life and reduces healthcare costs. Calls were made for scaling up organised screening programs across EU Member States, supported by ongoing European Commission efforts.
- **Addressing Inequalities in Access and Participation:** Geographic and socioeconomic disparities in prostate cancer screening must be tackled through coordinated European efforts, health literacy campaigns, and increased awareness, particularly in Eastern Europe.
- **Focus on Quality of Life (QoL) for Patients and Caregivers:** Enhancing emotional, physical, and psychological support for patients and caregivers is essential, with prostate cancer recognised as a "couple's disease" requiring holistic care.
- **Investment in Innovation and Technology:** Sustained funding is needed for advanced diagnostic tools, AI-based solutions, and data-sharing frameworks like the European Health Data Space to drive progress and enable cross-border collaboration.
- **Political Support and EU Funding:** Ensuring sufficient political will and funding for initiatives like EU4Health is critical to maintaining organised screening programs and prioritising prostate cancer within the EU Beating Cancer Plan and Cancer Mission.

Key Messages From The Event

The event was opened by MEP Romana Jerković (S&D, Croatia), who emphasised the importance of addressing prostate cancer as a pressing public health issue across Europe. She highlighted the critical need for organised screening programmes, noting their potential to improve survival rates, reduce healthcare costs, and enhance patients' quality of life. Her intervention underscored the necessity of political commitment to advancing prostate cancer care at the European level.

"We need to ensure that early detection and equal access to high-quality screening programs become a reality for all men in the EU."

MEP Romana Jerkovic



MEP Andras Kulja underscored the importance of securing sustained funding for innovative diagnostic tools and AI-driven solutions, which he described as pivotal for advancing cancer care. He emphasised the role of high-quality data and innovative technologies, such as radioligand therapy, in improving patient outcomes.

“We need high-quality data and cutting-edge technology like radioligand therapy to ensure the future of cancer care in Europe.”

MEP Andras Kulja

Additionally, MEP Laurent Castillo highlighted the potential of new radiopharmaceutical technologies, such as lutetium-177, to offer advanced treatment options for prostate cancer, calling for greater investment in these promising developments.

“One euro invested in early detection in prostate cancer can save seven euro in healthcare costs.”

MEP Laurent Castillo

Speakers also raised concerns about the potential impact of budget cuts to the EU4Health programme, warning that reduced funding could undermine ongoing cancer initiatives.

“Our 27 Member States are fragmented when it comes to cancer policy, we need to implement the European Cancer Action Plan together.”

MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis

The policymakers agreed with a strong call to action, emphasising the importance of keeping prostate cancer as a key priority in the EU’s cancer strategies, with sufficient resources allocated to support innovation and patient care.

Additionally, a representative from the European Commission agreed that early detection is pivotal when it comes to prevention and improvement of patient outcomes. They also highlighted the importance of cooperation between the European Commission and stakeholders to drive the change in the EU.

“The European Commission is committed to fostering synergies between research and practice to reduce the cancer burden across Europe.”

Jan-Willem van de Loo, European Commission

A significant focus of the discussion was the disparities in access to prostate cancer screening across EU Member States. Regional representatives called for coordinated efforts at the EU level to address these inequalities. They highlighted the need to expand access to screening services, and to implement awareness campaigns aimed at increasing participation, particularly in underserved areas. Strengthening health literacy was also



identified as a key strategy to ensure that men across Europe are informed about the benefits of prostate cancer screening and are encouraged to take part in these programmes.

This focus on improving patient outcomes and addressing inequalities was also echoed by representatives from regional authorities, who shared their experiences of implementing organised screening programmes and tackling disparities in access across Europe.

“We contribute to filling knowledge gaps and demonstrate the importance of integrating health promotion and health care.”

Ana Marina Tarrazo Antelo, Galician Ministry of Health

Regional representatives contributed to the discussion by emphasising the importance of shifting from opportunistic to organised screening programmes. They noted that organised screening ensures more consistent participation and leads to better health outcomes compared to ad hoc approaches. Pilot projects currently underway in regions such as Italy and Galicia (Spain) were cited as examples of successful progress in this area.

“It’s important to carry out surveys and forums with oncologists, urologists, health authorities, public health experts and citizens and share results with the Ministry of Health.”

Giuseppe Gorini, ISPRO

The event also brought together representatives from patient organisations, who provided valuable insights into the lived experiences of patients and the systemic challenges they face in accessing timely and effective care. Professor Hendrik Van Poppel from the European Association of Urology (EAU) highlighted the critical role of early detection in improving patient outcomes. He stressed that organised screening programmes save lives and alleviate pressure on healthcare systems by enabling less invasive treatments and improving patients’ quality of life. His contribution reinforced the importance of addressing barriers to care and advancing structured screening initiatives across Europe.

“Organised screening programs save lives, but they also save healthcare systems money by enabling less invasive treatments and better quality of life for patients.”

Professor Hendrik Van Poppel, European Association of Urology

André Deschamps, Chair of Wij Ook and former Chairman of Europa Uomo, presented findings from patient surveys that revealed significant gaps in awareness about prostate health. He noted that half of the men surveyed were unaware of what a prostate is, illustrating the need for improved health literacy and targeted awareness campaigns. These initiatives, he argued,



are essential for encouraging early detection and participation in screening programmes.

“Half of the men surveyed in our study didn’t even know what a prostate is.”

André Deschamps, Wij Ook & Europa Uomo

Jacqueline Daly, a patient advocate, provided a caregiver’s perspective on the impact of prostate cancer. She described the condition as a “couple’s disease,” highlighting its wide-reaching effects on families and caregivers in addition to patients. Daly’s testimony underscored the importance of prioritising the quality of life for both patients and their carers, advocating for a more holistic approach to prostate cancer care.

“We need to look at prostate cancer holistically, it’s a couple’s disease and we need to support those couples”

Jacqueline Daly, East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support

Sarah Collen from the Praise-U project, which is an EU-supported initiative focused on improving the early detection of prostate cancer through organised screening programmes, gave an update on the project and its current state of work. Sarah highlighted that the aim is to develop and implement evidence-based guidelines and best practices for prostate cancer screening across the EU, addressing variations in screening availability and participation among Member States.

“The EU4Health funding has been critical for the implementation of our pilots on understanding how screening works out in different health systems.”

Sarah Collen, Praise-U project

Achieving meaningful progress in prostate cancer care within the EU Beating Cancer Plan depends on both political determination and sufficient financial investment. Without clear commitments from policymakers and dedicated funding, efforts to enhance early detection, treatment, and patient outcomes risk being inadequate. Ensuring that prostate cancer remains a priority within the EU’s broader cancer strategy is essential for delivering equitable and effective care across Member States.

“Political will and financial commitment are non-negotiable if we are to prioritise prostate cancer care in the EU Beating Cancer Plan.”

Eduardo Pisani, All.Can International

By combining insights from policymakers, patient organisations and other stakeholders within the EU cancer sphere as well as regional authorities, the event underscored the



importance of a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to improving prostate cancer care across Europe.

The event concluded with a strong call to action for policymakers to ensure prostate cancer remains a priority within the EU's cancer strategies.

What's Next?

Throughout the discussions, the importance of raising awareness about prostate cancer and the benefits of early detection was repeatedly highlighted. Participants agreed that increasing public participation in screening programmes is essential and can be achieved through effective advocacy and education campaigns. Using diverse media channels, community events, and digital platforms to reach high-risk groups was identified as key to enhancing outreach.

Towards the end of the event, the LTPC (Let's Talk Prostate Cancer) presented a letter to the European Commission, outlining key actions needed to improve prostate cancer care across Europe. The letter focused on the importance of doing more for prostate cancer screening and early detection, providing better support throughout the care pathway, enhancing cross-border care, and other critical areas. It also included specific recommendations developed in cooperation with our experts.

As the presentation concluded, participants were invited to show their support by signing the letter. The LTPC Experts and MEPs Romana Jerkovic, Andras Kulja and Ondrej Dostal, as well as Sarah Collen from Praise-U, Richard Price from European Cancer Organisation, Eduardo Pisani from All. Can International and Antonella Cardone from Cancer Patients Europe had added their signatures, signalling a strong collective commitment to advancing prostate cancer care. This moment also marked an important next step for LTPC in its mission to drive meaningful change.