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# I have cancer but I want to work. Working rights of cancer patients.

*An initiative of the ABC Global Alliance*

7 November 2018

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## ABC GLOBAL ALLIANCE

In November 2016, the European School of Oncology has launched the ABC Global Alliance, a multi-stakeholder platform for all those interested in collaborating in common projects relating to advanced breast cancer (ABC). Many studies revealed substantial gaps in care, access to resources, support, and treatment outcomes for ABC patients. Our goal is to improve and extend the lives of women and men living with ABC in all countries worldwide and to fight for a cure.

For further information please visit [www.abcgloballiance.org](http://www.abcgloballiance.org).

## ABOUT THE EVENT

As the incidence of cancer continues to dramatically rise, its impact in the work environment will become even higher in the decades ahead. Experts predict continued growth in the numbers of the working population affected by cancer, as populations age and earlier diagnosis and better treatment lead to improved cancer survival rates. One out three Europeans will develop at least one cancer in their lifetime (in one decade it will be 1 out of 2). Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer worldwide, affects specially women (breast cancer can occur in males but is a rare disease), with an estimated 1.7 million new cases diagnosed per year and half a million deaths annually, almost all due to metastatic or advanced disease (i.e. cancer that has spread to other parts of the body).

The financial burden of cancer includes not only the cost of treatments (direct costs) but also the loss of productivity (indirect costs), both of which are exponentially increasing.

Cancer survivors frequently have long term side effects of treatments, physical, psychological and cognitive (intellectual). A substantial number of advanced cancer patients are now able to live several years with the disease, but they need continuous treatment and tight surveillance and suffer from side effects of treatment and symptoms of the disease.

Remaining active and productive is crucial for cancer survivors and advanced cancer patients, in financial but also psychological/emotional terms, and is an integrative part of their well-being. In addition, society can only win by maintaining them as active contributors.

To allow cancer survivors and advanced cancer patients to successfully maintain or return to work, work environment must be more flexible to adapt to their needs: flexible schedules, home-based work, adapted tasks and understanding from employers and working colleagues.

Within the frame of its goal to improve quality of life of women and men living with advanced breast cancer worldwide, the ABC Global Alliance is organizing this event at the EU Parliament to increase awareness about this important issue, which effects not only breast cancer patients but all cancer patients worldwide and find possible solutions.

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## MEETING VENUE

European Parliament | Altiero Spinelli building | Level 0 | Salon G

## PROGRAMME

**13:00 Introduction**

MEP *L. Wierinck*, European Parliament ALDE, BE  
MEP *A. Cristea*, European Parliament S&D, RO

**13:10 Difference between early and advanced breast cancer. The ABC Global Alliance and ABC Global Charter**

*F. Cardoso*, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon, PT and ABC Global Alliance Chair

**13:20 Cancer Survivors, Long-Term side effects and Work**

*B. Wilson*, Working With Cancer, Thames Ditton, UK

**13:30 Employment/return to work issues facing patients with ABC**

*K. Benn*, Europa Donna - The European Breast Cancer Coalition, Milan, IT

**13:40 The financial impact of (advanced) breast cancer: direct and indirect (loss of productivity)**

*R. Sullivan*, King's Comprehensive Cancer Centre, London, UK

**14:00 Cancer in the Workplace. Available reports:**

**ABC Global Alliance**

*F. Cardoso*, Champalimaud Clinical Centre, Lisbon, PT and ABC Global Alliance Chair

**The Economist Intelligence Unit**

**The MBC Policy Roadmap**

*M. Hahka Kempainen*, Lilly International

**My Time, Our Time Novartis Campaign**

*D. Decise*, Novartis

**The road to a better normal**

*V. Clay*, Pfizer

**14:20 How can the EU politicians/policy makers help?**

MEP *L. Wierinck*, European Parliament ALDE, BE  
MEP *A. Cristea*, European Parliament S&D, RO

**14:30 Discussion and next steps**

*All participants*

**14:45 Meeting close**

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**For further information and registration visit [www.abcgloballiance.org](http://www.abcgloballiance.org) or contact:**

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