

The Joint Euro-American Forum on Cancer

2024 RESOLUTION

This conference notes:

- That according to the latest estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO)'s cancer agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), globally in 2022, there were an estimated **20 million new cancer cases and 9.7 million deaths**¹.
- That in the USA, according to data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics, in 2022 the USA had **1,918,030 new cancer cases and 609,360 cancer deaths**, including approximately 350 deaths per day from lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer death².
- In the European Union, there were an estimated **2.74 million new cancer cases in 2022**, representing an age-standardised incidence rate of 571.5 new cases for every 100 000 people. Between 2010 and 2022, the rate of new cancer cases increased **in 14 of 24 of the EU27 plus Norway and Iceland (EU+2 countries)**³.
- The creation and implementation of the **Cancer Moonshot initiative** in the USA to accelerate scientific discovery in cancer research, foster greater collaboration, and improve the sharing of cancer data. To date, the initiative has announced more than 70 new cancer programmes, with core goals around: expanding access to cancer screening; understanding and preventing toxic and environmental exposures; preventing more cancers before they start; driving new innovation and delivering the latest progress to patients and communities; supporting patients and caregivers⁴.
- The establishment in the US of a **National Cancer Plan** focussing on 8 goals to **cut the cancer death rate by at least 50% in the next 25 years**.
- The creation and implementation by the European Commission of '**Europe's Beating Cancer Plan**', a landmark set of more than 40 initiatives to support all EU countries in four key action areas where the EU can add the most value: (1) prevention; (2) early detection; (3) diagnosis and treatment; and (4) quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.⁵
- The establishment of an **EU-US Cancer Health Cooperation Working Group** in May 2023⁶ with a shared focus on paediatric and young adult rare cancers, as well as adult cancer screening and treatment, with an initial emphasis on lung cancer.
- The 2022 **Lancet Oncology Commission European Groundshot—addressing Europe's cancer research challenges**⁷ which highlighted the need for: more information-driven and data-driven cancer research strategies; addressing East-West cancer research gaps in Europe; a broader European cancer research agenda to include such areas as prevention

¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-02-2024-global-cancer-burden-growing--amidst-mounting-need-for-services#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20there%20were%20an,women%20die%20from%20the%20disease.>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35020204/>

³ [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/4387c4ec-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/4387c4ec-en#:~:text=There%20were%20an%20estimated%202.74,\(EU%2B2%20countries\).](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/4387c4ec-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/4387c4ec-en#:~:text=There%20were%20an%20estimated%202.74,(EU%2B2%20countries).)

⁴ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cancermoonshot/>

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu_cancer_plan_en_0.pdf

⁶ [https://proteomics.cancer.gov/programs/EU-US-WG#:~:text=In%20the%20ongoing%20fight%20against,2023%20\(Joint%20Press%20Release%20\).](https://proteomics.cancer.gov/programs/EU-US-WG#:~:text=In%20the%20ongoing%20fight%20against,2023%20(Joint%20Press%20Release%20).)

⁷ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045\(22\)00540-X/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045(22)00540-X/abstract)

and early diagnosis and treatment modalities such as radiotherapy and surgery; and the important role of comprehensive cancer centres in driving the European cancer research agenda. Its **70:35 Vision** aims to achieve **70% survival** for all European countries by **2035**

- The **European Cancer Charter 2024**⁸, supported and endorsed by more than 100 organisations and individuals, calling for Europe to assume a global leader role in the fight against cancer, including the request that formal connection with EU cancer efforts with US Cancer Moonshot endeavours be actively pursued.
- The European Cancer Organisation's ***Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer*** manifesto, developed by the European cancer community ahead of the European Parliament elections which, among other calls, recommends more formalised European and international cooperation in many areas of cancer policy including: progressing the implementation of new forms of cancer screening and early detection such as lung, prostate and gastric cancer screening; the combat of vaccine misinformation; the achievement of the WHO's cervical cancer elimination goal; standardised reporting in connection to evident inequalities in cancer care and outcomes, including for indicators such as race and ethnicity.
- The WHO's projection of a **shortfall of 10 million health workers by 2030**⁹.

This Euro-American Forum on Cancer believes:

- Impactful discoveries and improvements invariably involve the **cooperation** of many minds.
- The European Union and the United States have a **shared political mission** in addressing more fully the challenge of rising cancer incidence, as represented by Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the Cancer Moonshot Initiative.
- That **abundant opportunities exist** for further developing systems and infrastructure **for US-EU cooperation in the field of cancer** and that this should be developed by the respective administrations coming into office following US Presidential and European Parliament elections taking place in 2024.

This Euro-American Forum on Cancer recommends:

- That following the European Parliament elections of 2024, **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan be completed, refreshed** for new developments in science, and its goal-oriented approach to cancer control be **expanded**.
- That the refreshment of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and expansion of goals, should include the **formal establishment of shared goals and projects** with the US Cancer Moonshot. This might include such suggestions as: **doubling survival rates for poor prognosis tumours**, achieving the 70:35 vision of **70% ten-year survival rates** for all patients with cancer by **2035**; **accelerating** the achievement of **HPV cancer elimination** and **tobacco-free generation** goals; formal cooperation in the **wider implementation of screening programmes** such as **lung cancer**; and, **shared leadership** at an international level to drive solutions to the global health and oncology workforce shortage crisis.

⁸ <https://www.europecancer.org/2-standard/663-european-cancer-charter-2024>

⁹ https://www.who.int/health-topics/health-workforce#tab=tab_1