

THE LARNAKA CALL

A long-term future for European action against cancer

The Larnaka Call is issued at a pivotal moment for European health policy. As the European Union nears the end of the current Multiannual Financial Framework and prepares for the 2028–2035 period, it is essential that health remains a core priority, through the continued implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan.

This Call results from a national initiative led by the elected representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, in close consultation with European and national stakeholders. It reflects a shared hope that the forthcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union can be taken as a moment to renew and strengthen collective action against cancer.

We, the undersigned, note:

1. That the Republic of Cyprus will hold the **Presidency of the Council of the European Union** during the first half of 2026, providing a significant opportunity to advance strategic priorities in public health, notably in cancer prevention, care, and research.
2. That **Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan** and the **EU Cancer Mission** represent landmark European initiatives which have significantly advanced cooperation among Member States, improved access to care, and fostered innovation in cancer control.
3. That **preparations are currently underway for the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2035)**, with the European Commission expected to publish a proposal in July 2025. In this context, speculation persists regarding potential reallocation of resources to other areas and restructuring of health and research funding under a broader ‘Competitiveness Fund’ heading. This creates significant uncertainty regarding the future of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Cancer Mission. Without a coordinated and explicit signal from the Member States, the continued prioritisation and adequate resourcing of these initiatives cannot be assured.
4. That **sustained political and financial support at European and national levels is instrumental for the fight against cancer across the continent**. Without the **full delivery and ambitious continuation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Cancer Mission**, Europe will fail to meet its goals and the expectations of its citizens and lose on the opportunity of global leadership in the field. This includes advancing the understanding of cancer, preventing and detecting the disease, ensuring patients’ equal access to diagnostics, treatment and multidisciplinary care, and safeguarding quality of life for all those affected.

We, the undersigned, recommend:

1. That the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026 be used as a platform to **renew the political mandate for pan-European cooperation in cancer policy and research**.
2. That the Cypriot Presidency initiates, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, the preparation of **Council Conclusions** reaffirming the shared commitment to collaborative action against cancer for the post-2027 period.
3. That the forthcoming **Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034)** shall provide for the **continuation and long-term sustainability** of cancer-related programmes launched under the current framework. Appropriate and stable funding should be allocated to ensure the future of key EU-funded initiatives which serve as critical enablers of coordinated European action in cancer prevention, detection, treatment, research, and survivorship.
4. That pan-European cooperation in cancer policy should constantly seek to reduce disparities in cancer control, both between and within countries. This includes equitable access to cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, multimodal cancer treatment and multidisciplinary care, including modern oncology centres, high-quality radiotherapy departments and surgery, research, as well as patient-centred survivorship care and rehabilitation.

