Buenos tardes! I would like to congratulate Dr. Maria Neira and WHO for this initiative and all stakeholders, speakers, panelists, participants and the team involved and contributing to this conference success.

I am very glad and honored to have the opportunity to share the point of view of European Cancer Patient Coalition. ECPC is the main European Parliament Partner in setting EU Health Policy, especially the one regarding cancer and speaks with one voice for more than 1 million cancer patients from 42 countries including the 27 member states.

ECPC is also involved and supportive to all initiative related cancer prevention and preventable and avoidable cancers as environmental and occupational cancer determinants.

One important step further is to increase public and political awareness and risk perception of environmental and occupational carcinogens and the proposed mitigation measures that can be made available

Ans:

- In the case of any activity likely to involve a risk of exposure to carcinogens or mutagens, the nature, degree and duration of workers' exposure shall be determined in order to make it possible to assess any risk to the workers' health or safety and to lay down the measures to be taken. This should be available to all employees and should be given to them when they start work in this organisation. The assessment shall be renewed regularly and in any event when any change occurs in the conditions which may affect workers' exposure to carcinogens or mutagens and employees should be updated.

- Civil Society Organisations should know their rights and protections that are available. The EU proposed a law concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals called REACH. This complements the application of directives on worker protection. At the social level, improving the health and safety of workers is a key political objective of the Community chemicals policy. The REACH Regulation provides important information on substances that will support the effective operation of worker protection legislation, which operates unchanged. Since these directives establish only minimum standards, Member States may in principle adopt provisions which afford greater protection to workers. Article 126 of the proposal provides for a Member State to take provisional measures where it has justifiable grounds for believing that there is a risk to human health or the environment.

- There should be increased awareness campaigns from the different sectors of society about their rights.

- There should be increased solidarity with workers through trade unions within the same industry type.

- An updated consistent level of protection from the risks related to carcinogens or mutagens has to be established for the Community as a whole and that level of protection has to be set not by detailed prescriptive requirements but by a framework of general principles to enable Member States to apply the minimum requirements consistently.
- **Mitigation Measures**: In order to contribute to a reduction in these risks, limit values and other directly related provisions should be established for all those carcinogens or mutagens for which the available information, including scientific and technical data, make this possible.

- Occupational exposure limit values must be regarded as an important component of the general arrangement for the protection of workers. Such limit values must be revised whenever this becomes necessary in the light of more recent scientific data.

- Preventive measures must be taken for the protection of the health and safety of workers exposed to carcinogens or mutagens.

- When the risk assessment is carried out, employers shall give particular attention to any effects concerning the health or safety of workers at particular risk and shall, inter alia, take account of the desirability of not employing such workers in areas where they may come into contact with carcinogens or mutagens.

**Communication is the best mean to raise awareness and to influence. Here are the good practice examples of ECPC communication strategies to influence target groups (health-care professionals, politicians, vulnerable groups, etc.) and populations?**

- Face-to-Face meetings with the most influential policy decision makers eg Health Commissioners, set up an informal but very supportive MEPs Group called Forum Against Cancer Europe that are very supportive to ECPC initiatives and are influencing other MEPs in taking decisions and voting. This group is counting 88 MEP among all political parties.

  Workshops for MEPs to become familiar with cancer burden and impact on patients, families and economic costs of prevention versus treatment – ECPC FACE MEP (88 MEPs);

- Extensive Contacts in the European Commission and Permanent Representatives

- Press Release, Members Updates etc

- ECPC TV

- Social Media – (ECPC Twitter, ECPC Facebook)

**What are the media messages that work?**

- Many people are taking steps to actively reduce their risk of cancer, such as being active or stopping smoking. However, have you looked at the risks you are exposed to when you step outside, or at work?

- If you drive, you probably know that road traffic is a major cause of climate change. Did you also know it is a significant contributor to respiratory problems like lung cancer?

- Plants on the desk are more than just pretty – by cleaning the air you breathe, they an reduce your risk of cancer and other diseases.
What should the respective role(s) of governments, trade unions, NGOs and media be

• Point out the need to adapt existing directives to reflect changes in scientific knowledge, technical progress and the world of work/Implement the European Standards that are in place and utilize best practice from different Member States. NGOs (patient organisations) should utilize these standards.

• In the various consultations of the European social partners on the protection of workers from risks related to exposure at work to carcinogens, mutagens and substances toxic for reproduction, which is expected to be launched in 2006. Pursuant to Article 138(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the purpose of the second stage consultation document will be to elicit the opinion of the European social partners on the content of a potential Community initiative in this area.

• Wherever a carcinogen or mutagen is used, the above actors should apply the following measures: shall apply all the following measures:

a) limitation of the quantities of a carcinogen or mutagen at the place of work;
b) keeping as low as possible the number of workers exposed or likely to be exposed;
c) design of work processes and engineering control measures so as to avoid or minimise the release of carcinogens or mutagens into the place of work;
d) evacuation of carcinogens or mutagens at source, local extraction system or general ventilation, all such methods to be appropriate and compatible with the need to protect public health and the environment;
e) use of existing appropriate procedures for the measurement of carcinogens or mutagens, in particular for the early detection of abnormal exposures resulting from an unforeseeable event or an accident;
f) application of suitable working procedures and methods;
g) collective protection measures and/or, where exposure cannot be avoided by other means, individual protection measures;
h) hygiene measures, in particular regular cleaning of floors, walls and other surfaces;
i) information for workers;
j) demarcation of risk areas and use of adequate warning and safety signs including ‘no smoking’ signs in areas where workers are exposed or likely to be exposed to carcinogens or mutagens;
k) drawing up plans to deal with emergencies likely to result

I am personally interested both on Environment and occupational cancer determinants as my full time job is in this field but also in cancer preventing by any means as I am cancer patient advocate and cancer survivor.