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Optimum care for women with breast cancer

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Ms Stella KYRIAKIDES and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Breast cancer is the commonest cancer in European women with the highest mortality levels of any cancer in women worldwide.

One in ten women in Europe will develop breast cancer by the age of 80, while an average of 20–30% of breast cancer cases in Europe occur in women younger than 50 years old. Ever increasing numbers of younger women are contracting breast cancer, affecting many women during their years dedicated to working and raising a family. Men also are affected by breast cancer in 1% of cases.

Population-based mammography screening has been proven to reduce deaths from breast cancer by up to 35% in women between 50 and 69 and should be carried out every two years within a national screening programme. Scientific evidence also shows that women treated in multidisciplinary specialised breast units have an increased chance of survival and better quality of life. Recent studies show that one fifth of breast cancer patients do not return to work although they are deemed fit to do so, and that women who do return to work are often faced with a reduction in their income.

The Parliamentary Assembly calls upon member States to fully comply with all existing standards and implement them at national level.

Member States should ensure that

- women have access to a national mammography screening programme set up according to quality assurance in breast cancer screening and diagnosis according to European Guidelines
- ensure treatment in multidisciplinary breast units, wherever the place of residence, established in accordance with European Guidelines,
- establish national cancer registries providing reliable data on the situation in the member States.
- breast cancer remains on the top of their health agendas.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

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