

Transcript of speech by MEP Anneli Jäätteenmäki

Greetings from Brussels!

First of all I would like to sincerely apologise that I could not participate to this important plenary of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer. However, I am happy that I can send my greetings through this video message.

I had the pleasure to visit the JRC Ispra in last May. I was given a good introduction to the important work that Joint Research Centre is doing, thank you!

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in Europe for females and the most common cancer overall. Breast cancer is also the most deadly cancer in women; mortality rate varies widely across European countries and tells us that there is much to be done for improving quality of care across Europe. The aim of the European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer is to harmonise and ensure the quality of breast cancer services across European Countries. This would be most of all for the benefit of the European women suffering of breast cancer. It would also benefit the Member States economical means, as the cost of treating breast cancer make up a great economic burden in the Member States.

This Plenary meeting marks the take off towards a final making evidence based tools for improving and harmonising cross border breast cancer care services available to all European countries.

The web hub hosting all the information on this initiative is also being launched and this will be a long term virtual house for all those seeking information about the work. In fact, it will also provide all women a reliable information source for receiving care which is compliant with the European requirements.

We in the European Parliament support this initiative which is innovative by design, joins evidence with assessment, is transparent, patient centred and inclusive of all key players, including policy makers.

I want to stress that you make a very important work, each for the best of all European citizens.

Thanks for it.