

Members of the European Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be here with you today as we celebrate the launch of the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights in the European Parliament in Strasbourg

It represents the work of so many people to bring this very important initiative to life. Reading the literature provided, I am very impressed by both the quality and the diversity of the people involved in this venture

Cancer is something that affects us all in our daily lives. We all know someone, either in our family or among our friends and acquaintances who have been touched by this deadly disease. In my own case, it was my mother who sadly passed away from leukaemia.

Although it was a sad occasion, it made me think of what I could do to help. In my own country, the numbers of people dying from cancer is significant. In many cases patients are diagnosed too late, making it difficult to treat them successfully. When the European Cancer Patient Coalition asked me to help I was both delighted and honoured to become an ECPC Ambassador for Cancer

As some of you know, I played rugby at a high level in Europe for many years and continue to be involved in developing rugby in Romania. Sportsmen like myself are regarded as being very fit and healthy but I still know many friends and colleagues over the years who suffered from cancer

As I said earlier cancer is a significant problem in my country and in many countries in Eastern Europe. I hope that this European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights will change this and allow Romanian people and indeed all people in Europe access to the best diagnostic and therapeutic approaches that are available

This Bill of Rights that you wonderful people in this room and around Europe have developed provides us all with hope, the hope that one day we can live in a world without cancer

Therefore I say to my political colleagues both in my own country and here in the European Parliament. Adopt this excellent document. (Hold up document)

Let's Line Out together for Cancer