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Dear Dr. Alivizatos, dear Dr. Dellis,

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2021 and for your warm welcome of the presentation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan. As you rightly say, this gives the EU a unique opportunity to tackle many of the existing challenges, including those linked to late diagnosis and the unfortunate consequences that follow. I appreciate your offer to work with us to provide scientific evidence and guidance to improve prostate cancer care across the European Union.

The publication you shared with us identifies a number of concrete ways to improve early detection of prostate cancer, and how to ensure that patients can benefit from new developments in cancer care, including cancer survivors. The points raised are all valid ones, and they fit very well with the main pillars of the Cancer Plan and the many actions and initiatives we are proposing, from prevention to early detection, treatment, survivorship and research.

We have paid utmost attention to involve all stakeholders throughout the process of developing the Cancer Plan, and will continue to do so as we present the actions and measures laid out therein. Since its adoption on 3 February 2021, we are in the process of preparing concrete implementation steps, including the work with stakeholders. In this context, I would welcome your positive engagement in the stakeholder contact group, to be established under the Commission’s Health Policy Platform¹.

Dr. Gerasimos Alivizatos
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the European Economic and Social Committee
Dr. Athanasios Dellis
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¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/>

I have met with your colleagues from the European Association of Urology and invited them in person to join the group which will be launched in the coming months and contribute to the discussions with stakeholders and patients associations.

I am very much looking forward to working constructively with you going forward and jointly contribute to make a difference for Europe's cancer patients and their families.

Yours sincerely,

D. Kyriakides