

Provisional programme  
FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY  
- NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

**ECONOMIST  
IMPACT**

**Provisional programme**

# **Sixth annual Greece Cancer Summit**

## **Fighting cancer in disrupted times**



April 22nd 2026 | Grand Hyatt Athens

Supported by



  
**hazlis & rivas**  
Economist Impact Events  
for south-east Europe

08:30 Registration and refreshments

09:00 Welcome and introduction from the conference chair:

\* **Alasdair Ross**, countries editor, *The World Ahead 2026*, *The Economist*

09:10 **An insight from EBCP's 5-year implementation**

In the opening session the European commissioner for health will outline the progress made by the European Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion and present the next steps for the EU's cancer policy. How are broader EU health policies evolving in response to challenges to Europe's unity, strategic autonomy and economic resilience?

**Olivér Várhelyi**, commissioner for health and animal welfare, European Commission

09:20 **The current status of cancer policies in the EU and Greece**

The session will examine Greece's progress in the fight against cancer and will discuss lessons from the European experience. It will also consider the policy priorities of both the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO). What does the ESMO's roadmap for oncology care include? The panel will also explore the contributions of patients and the pharmaceutical industries to cancer policy in Greece and Europe.

\* **Adonis Georgiadis**, minister of health, Government of Greece

**Fabrice André**, president, European Society for Medical Oncology

**Emmanouil Saloustros**, president of the board, HeSMO

**George Kapetanakis**, president, Hellenic Cancer Federation

**Representative**, MSD (name to be advised)

10:20 **Advancing research in oncology in Greece and the EU**

The panel will examine the momentum for innovation in biotechnology research in Europe and the importance of the EU Biotech Act. It will also focus on basic and translational research in Greece and the results of recent clinical trials. How are the EU funding opportunities for cancer care evolving? Is Greece's framework for oncology research adequate?

**Fabio D'Atri**, deputy head of Unit, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

**Vassilis Charmandaris**, professor, Department of Physics, University of Crete; president, FORTH Greece

**Aristotelis Bamias**, professor of therapeutics, internal medicine and oncology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens

**Meletios-Athanasios Dimopoulos**, hematologist-medical oncologist, director, University Clinic of Therapeutics, Alexandra Hospital

**Lilian-Venetia Vildiridi**, secretary-general for health services, Ministry of Health, Government of Greece

11:10	Networking break
11:40	<p><b>Building a sustainable future: prevention and green oncology as drivers of better cancer outcomes</b></p> <p>The panel focuses on prevention, highlighting Greece’s “Prolamvano” screening programme, the European Code Against Cancer, the burden of cancer in Europe and HeSMO’s perspective. It will also discuss the concept of sustainable oncology, the environmental determinants that make cancer more likely, the prospects of cancer-free cities and the holistic “one health” approach.</p> <p><b>Eirini Agapidaki</b>, alternate minister of health, Government of Greece <b>Carolina Espina Garcia</b>, scientist, environment and lifestyle, epidemiology, International Agency for Research on Cancer <b>Andreas Flouris</b>, professor of physiology, University of Thessaly; visiting professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ottawa <b>Dimosthenis Sarigiannis</b>, director and chairman, National Hellenic Research Foundation <b>Thalia Lalla</b>, medical oncologist, director ESY, Theagenio Anticancer Hospital of Thessaloniki <b>Representative</b>, MSD (name to be advised)</p>
12:30	<p><b>Transforming cancer care management through digital solutions</b></p> <p>Digital transformation is reshaping cancer policy. This panel will examine the impact of digital interoperability, the significance of digital reform in cancer care and the digital tools for smarter cancer care. It will also discuss concerns over equity in digital health. It will also explore the value of European Health Data Space and the relationship between digital biomarkers, genomics and real-world evidence.</p> <p><b>Aris Angelis</b>, secretary-general for strategic planning, Ministry of Health, Government of Greece <b>Konstantinos Michalitsis</b>, head of the General Applications Subdivision, e-Government Center for Social Security Services, Greece <b>Michalis Liontos</b>, associate professor of therapeutics oncology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens Representative (name to be advised) <b>Representative</b>, Hellenic Cancer Federation (name to be advised)</p>
13:15	Networking lunch

14:20

### **Addressing inequalities in cancer care**

How can inequalities concerning access to cancer diagnosis and treatment be reduced—or even eliminated? How can the EU's national cancer-care systems be reinforced and what is the role of scientific societies within this framework? The panel will assess national and European legislation for equity in cancer care and the particular socio-economic burden of cancer among women.

**Konstantinos Syrigos**, professor of medicine and oncology, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens; chairman, Hellenic Association of Lung Cancer

**Dimitra Lingri**, lawyer, Council of State; senior legal counsel, National for Health Care Services (EOPYY)

**Francesco de Lorenzo**, president, European Cancer Patient Coalition

**Anastasios Boutis**, consultant medical oncologist and director, Theagenio Anticancer Hospital of Thessaloniki

**Kostas Athanasakis**, assistant professor in health economics and health technology assessment, University of West Attica

15:05

### **Improving quality in cancer care in Greece**

This panel will examine the quality of cancer care in Greece, highlighting the perspective of administrators and health-care professionals. It will also investigate the benefits of holistic care pathways. The session will present insights from an “efficiency landscape assessment” of three public hospitals in Greece and a case study of cancer patients’ management from another European hospital.

**Marios Themistocleous**, deputy minister of health, Government of Greece

**Representative**, MSD (name to be advised)

**Sarantos Efstathopoulos**, governor, “Metaxa” Anticancer Hospital of Piraeus

**Eleni Timotheadou**, medical oncologist, Papageorgiou General Hospital; associate professor of medicine and oncology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**Michail Nikolaou**, medical oncologist, “Saint Savvas” General Anticancer Oncology Hospital of Athens

**EU hospital expert** (name to be advised)

16:00

**Optimisation of cancer patients' outcomes: new needs, new challenges**

Post-treatment care is crucial in increasing cancer survivorship, while palliative care plays a key role in supporting patients' quality of life. How can the framework and policies for both be improved? What are the most successful community and home-based palliative care models? The session will also examine programmes for adolescents and young adults with cancer. Finally, it will discuss how to address the unmet needs of breast cancer patients in Greece.

**Antonis Kattamis**, head, division of pediatric hematology-oncology, first department of pediatrics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, "Aghia Sophia" Children's Hospital

**Paraskevi Michalopoulou**, president, Hellenic Association of Women with Breast Cancer "Alma Zois"; vice-president, Hellenic Cancer Federation

**Nikolaos Tsoukalas**, director, oncology department, Veterans Hospital 417 NIMTS

**Sofia Agelaki**, medical oncologist, University General Hospital of Heraklion, Crete; professor of medical oncology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete

**Eleftherios Thireos**, head of general directorate, National Agency for Quality Assurance in Health; president, Athens Medical Society

16:45

Closing remarks. **What are Greece's cancer priorities for 2026?**

**Emmanouil Saloustros**, president, Hellenic Society of Medical Oncology (HeSMO)

**George Kapetanakis**, president, Hellenic Cancer Federation

17:00

Close of programme

Date of draft: February 4th, 2026

This programme belongs to Economist Impact SE Europe Events and is still under development. No part may be reproduced without the written authorisation of the organisers. Speakers mentioned will be invited. Confirmations will appear with an asterisk.

