October 15th 2026

Statement by the Board of Europa Donna
The European Breast Cancer Coalition

Breast Cancer Awareness Month comes to an end. Our commitment to women and breast cancer patients continues.

We, the Board members of Europa Donna – The European Breast Cancer Coalition, reaffirm our determination to secure the declaration of 15 October as European Breast Health Day. In 2027, we will pursue this initiative at the European Parliament and continue seeking cross-party support.

Our proposal is about turning awareness into action and political commitments into measurable progress. A European Breast Health Day would establish an annual checkpoint to assess the implementation of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and strengthen accountability.

It would encourage the European Parliament, European Commission and Member States to review progress, identify implementation gaps and renew their commitment to equal access to prevention, organised screening and early detection. It would also support patient advocates working to improve participation in national screening programmes.

Breast cancer is Europe's most frequently diagnosed cancer among women. Despite long-established screening programmes, robust guidelines and reliable data, screening participation remains unacceptably low, below 56% in 11 of the 27 EU Member States.

Awareness encourages women to attend screening. Political commitment ensures that screening is accessible, equitable and of high quality. Both are essential.

We will persist in seeking a lasting European commitment to prevention, early detection and better outcomes for women across Europe.

Awareness must lead to action, every year, in every European country. Our work continues beyond October.

Signed,

The Board Members of Europa Donna – The European Breast Cancer Coalition

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