Policy Event:

International Childhood Cancer Day 2026

Programme

15:00 – 15:10 CET **Introduction**

Special Address by Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP), President of the European Parliament and Adam Jarubas (Poland, EPP), President of SANT Committee

- Welcome and opening remarks
- Adam Jarubas, Chair of the Committee on Public Health
- Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

15:10 – 15:50 CET **First Panel: Paediatric cancer – When markets fail children**

Child lived experience, the economics of innovation, and the case for public investment

This session will explore the realities faced by children diagnosed with cancer and their families, alongside the economic barriers that continue to limit the development of innovative paediatric cancer treatments. Speakers will discuss why the current market fails to adequately incentivise research and development for childhood cancers, and why sustained public investment is an essential part of the solution.

- Léonor Lhoist, 10-year-old survivor of childhood cancer
- Sam Daems, Economist and parent
- Questions and Answers

15:50 – 16:30 CET

Second Panel: Paediatric cancer – From Evidence to Action
Legislation and policy recommendations across the patient pathway

The second panel will present evidence-based recommendations to strengthen European policies across the entire childhood cancer pathway. The discussion will highlight opportunities to improve legislation, research, access to care, survivorship, and long-term follow-up, ensuring that every child with cancer benefits from high-quality, equitable care regardless of where they live in Europe.

- Gilles Vassal, European Society for Paediatric Oncology (SIOP Europe)
- Delphine Heenen, Childhood Cancer International - Europe (CCI Europe)
- Questions and Answers

16:30 CET

Closing remarks

- Closing remarks
- Adam Jarubas, Chair of the Committee on Public Health

Join us this Gold September as we work together with policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, survivors, families, and advocates to strengthen the European response to childhood cancer and ensure that every child has access to the best possible care and future!