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Comments by the European Commission on the 2021 Joint Statements

- **“Whitepaper of the EU Thematic Network on Integrated Nutrition in Cancer Care (INC2)”, led by the European Nutrition Health Alliance.**

These comments represent the view of SANTE CANCER.

First of all, a big thanks to the speakers for their impressive presentation, expertise and input to the debate. It shows the complexity of this topic but also the important role that nutrition care has to play for cancer patients and survivors.

We agree with the important role that nutrition plays in cancer prevention and management. This is reflected in the integrated approach that Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan takes towards all stages of the disease. At the same time, we also see the significant value to enhance cooperation between health stakeholders on advancing nutrition cancer care. That’s why we are pleased to have this thematic network and we hope that your cooperation continues in the future.

Hereby some brief feedback on the Joint Statement:

- First of all, the purpose of a Joint Statement is for the thematic network members to develop a list of actions they commit to do together and to describe how they will achieve these goals. are needed. This will help to ensure that nutrition comes higher on everybody’s agenda. Policymakers, health professionals and other stakeholders will greatly benefit from this.
- However, it would be useful to provide further details in the Joint Statement on which particular actions you have done (e.g. the developed guidelines) and which ones are planned, and how you plan to achieve these, including a timeline. This is something we could discuss bilaterally over the next days and weeks. Concrete suggestions have already been made in previous interactions.
- While step one is fully aligned with the purpose of a Joint Statement as reiterated several times during the preparation phase, the steps two and three, that address what national health care services, Member States and the EU should do, fall outside the purpose of this

position paper. It does, however, not mean that the points made are not valuable; they are just outside the scope of a Joint Statement. In addition it would also have been useful to very briefly outline how the Thematic Network could concretely support those actions that have been suggested by the network to be taken at national and EU level (this has been done for some actions, but not for all).

- We are pleased that key health stakeholders are on board and we invite you to get more endorsements from relevant organisations. This will help to make sure that everybody in this sector is equally informed and has the same information on the issue.
- As a final remark, it is important to keep in mind the support to reduce health inequalities and include this key element for integrated nutrition cancer care in the Joint Statement, perhaps with the actions the Thematic Network members plan to take to address this.

We would like to thank again the leader and the members of the Thematic Network. We remain available to further discuss and improve the Joint Statement following the suggestions made today.