10 REASONS TO SIGN the Written Declaration on the Fight Against Breast Cancer in the European Union
Before XXX 2015

1. Every year there are more than 367,090 new cases of breast cancer in the EU-28.¹

2. Every year 91,495 women die of breast cancer in the European Union¹

3. The lifetime risk of developing breast cancer for women in the EU-28 is 1 in 8.¹

4. Specialist breast units (SBUs) are essential to improving care and increasing survival for women after a breast cancer diagnosis, as stipulated in the European Commission-published *European Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis* (4th ed).

5. The EU Parliament Resolution on Breast Cancer of 2006 called for all member states to implement SBUs by 2016. That deadline is fast approaching and many EU countries have not yet complied. Women who have been treated in an SBU receive a better standard of care overall and their survival is increased.

6. Women with metastatic breast cancer (MBC) have special needs for ongoing care and psychosocial support which are currently not being met in many EU countries, or in many regions of EU countries. These women should have access to, and their care should be co-coordinated and sustained by, the SBU as indicated in the EU guidelines.

7. The Written Declaration of 2010 called on the Commission to implement an accreditation protocol to ensure that breast units across the EU are meeting the standards described in the EU Guidelines by 2011. The Commission has set up the ECIBC (European Commission Initiative on Breast Cancer) program to carry this out but progress has been very slow. This project needs to be expedited to ensure completion by 2016.

8. Population-based mammography screening is the best method of early detection of breast cancer available today and improves a woman’s chances of surviving breast cancer. These programs should be implemented nationwide in all EU member states, in accordance with the EU Guidelines.

9. Accurate statistics on breast cancer incidence and mortality, and incidence and mortality from metastatic breast cancer (MBC), are still not available in all EU countries.

10. Your signature will help in ensuring that all women across the EU receive high-quality breast cancer care according to the EU guidelines and in furthering the implementation of the 2006 Resolution on Breast Cancer.