NEWSLETTER PHARMA UPDATE

Cancer patients need to balance working hours and medical treatment

Finding a balance between working hours and medical treatment is a real problem for employees affected by cancer. This issue is the focus of a European project promoted by ADAPT, the Italian Association for International and Comparative Studies in Labour Law, and Europa Donna (an Italian patient association). Roche Italy decided to support this initiative by developing an internal information campaign. This started with an analysis of the Italian legislative environment. A Decalogue was then presented to employees to raise awareness of the legal entitlements of those directly or indirectly impacted by cancer.

Posters were produced and distributed in both Monza and Segrate sites, together with intranet communications and an article in the local employee magazine. At the same time an online survey, designed by ADAPT, was sent to all employees to learn what they know about employment law. From 3 to 14 November 2008 nearly 300 questionnaires were submitted.

ADAPT presented the project to the media, inviting institutional representatives and the two organisations which took part in the project: Milan City Council, and Roche Italy, the only private, multinational company to share their internal policy. The event was a success: Maurizio Sacconi, the Italian Ministry of Health, opened the meeting stressing the key role of the institutions involved. In a personal comment, he revealed that he too has been affected by cancer. ADAPT and Europa Donna would like to increase the network of European partners and involve other Roche affiliates in this initiative.

Further information

http://www.fmb.unimore.it/on-line/Home.html

