

Amsterdam, February 14, 2026

Application – Candidate Member ESC Audit Committee (Concise, Updated Experience)

Dear members of the Nomination Committee,

With this letter, I wish to express my interest in joining the ESC Audit Committee. My clinical background, financial oversight experience and long-standing involvement in professional governance equip me well to contribute to the committee's essential role in safeguarding transparency, accountability and strategic resilience within the ESC.

As a cardiologist in a teaching hospital, I have consistently combined clinical duties with broader responsibilities aimed at improving cardiovascular care. I currently serve as Chairman of the Medical Executive Committee of the Diakonessenhuis Utrecht, where I oversee clinical governance, quality assurance and strategic decision-making in an advisory role to the Board of Directors of the hospital. In parallel, I serve as Treasurer on the Board of the Netherlands Society of Cardiology (NVVC) and as a current member of the Audit Committee of the Federation of Medical Specialists (FMS), which represents 33 Dutch scientific associations and more than 23,000 medical specialists. These roles have strengthened my experience in financial stewardship, internal control systems, compliance structures and risk-management frameworks—core elements of effective governance.

Integrity and a strong moral compass have always guided my professional decisions. I place great value on transparency, ethical leadership and responsible collaboration with industry—areas under increasing societal scrutiny. As a member of the Audit Committee, I would be committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and fostering trust across the ESC's diverse international membership.

My bicultural background has taught me to navigate different perspectives and communication styles with ease, contributing to inclusive and balanced decision-making. My academic experience at the London School of Economics (LSE European Heart Academy program) further deepened my understanding of global governance, ethical leadership and complex organisational systems—knowledge I actively apply in oversight roles.

Digitalisation and AI offer significant opportunities for cardiovascular care but introduce new governance challenges. I believe that strong cybersecurity governance, including preventive measures and well-prepared Incident Response Plans, will be essential to safeguard the ESC's operational continuity.

The ESC plays a central role for cardiologists in the Netherlands through its science, education, guidelines and advocacy. With my governance experience, financial insight and commitment to ethical leadership, I would welcome the opportunity to support the Audit Committee in strengthening the organisation's financial, operational and reputational robustness.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be pleased to provide further information.

Kind regards,

Clara van Ofwegen-Hanekamp, MD, MSc, PhD, FESC.