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Motivation Letter – Candidacy for ESC Board Councillor 2026–2028

Dear Prof. Franz Weidinger, Chair of the Nominating Committee

Dear Members of the ESC Nominating Committee,

It is with a strong sense of purpose and commitment that I submit my candidacy for ESC Board Councillor 2026–2028. Over more than a decade of active involvement in the European Society of Cardiology, I have gained a deep understanding of ESC governance, developed a collaborative and inclusive leadership style, and strengthened my motivation to contribute to the Society’s mission of advancing cardiovascular science, education, and equitable care.

I currently serve as Chairperson of the ESC Working Group on Coronary Pathophysiology and Microcirculation, following earlier roles as Secretary, Web Coordinator, and Nucleus Member. In this capacity, I have fostered collaboration across ESC bodies, expanded scientific exchange, and supported the growth of our Working Group community. My role on the Board of the ESC Council on Basic Cardiovascular Science has enabled me to promote integration between translational and clinical research and to engage young investigators. I also contributed to the ESC EuroHeart Data Standards for Cardiovascular Outcomes, recognising their importance in harmonising data collection and supporting high-quality research. Earlier positions as ESC “Scientists of Tomorrow” Representative and as part of the Young Acute Cardiovascular Care Community further strengthened my understanding of the ESC ecosystem and my commitment to facilitating synergies across Working Groups, Councils, Associations, and National Cardiac Societies.

My scientific work spans clinical cardiology, translational science, and population health, with a focus on ischemic heart disease, coronary microvascular dysfunction, and sex- and gender-specific differences and disparities. These priorities shape a vision grounded in precision, interdisciplinarity, and equity. I have consistently worked to connect scientific and clinical communities, promote diversity across gender, ethnicity, geography, and generation, and support the professional development of early-career colleagues. I value leadership rooted in inclusion, transparency, and mentorship, and have sought to advance these principles within the ESC community.

Leadership roles in international registries, multi-country networks, and research consortia have strengthened my skills in strategic planning, scientific coordination, and team building, skills essential for effective Board service. If elected, I will work to enhance scientific integration across ESC bodies, advance equitable cardiovascular care, foster young and diverse leadership, and reinforce collaborations with National Cardiac Societies. I am also committed to strengthening the ESC’s role in policy engagement, promoting data-driven quality of care, and supporting innovation in digital, translational, and population health.

I am ready to serve the ESC and the wider cardiology community in this role. It will be an honour to be elected.

With my highest consideration,

Edina Cenko, MD, PhD, FESC