

To Prof. Weidinger and the Nominating Committee of the European Society of Cardiology

Subject: Application for the position of President Elect, European Society of Cardiology

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

It is with profound respect for the mission and heritage of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) - and with a steadfast commitment to its future role in advancing global cardiovascular medicine - that I submit my candidacy for the position of President Elect.

Motivation for Candidacy

The ESC today stands at a pivotal crossroad. The rapid evolution of digital medicine, artificial intelligence, and new models of healthcare delivery is transforming the way we practice, educate, and collaborate. To remain at the forefront, our Society requires leadership that combines scientific authority, institutional continuity, and visionary adaptability. Having had the privilege to serve the ESC across research, education, and editorial missions, I have witnessed its profound capacity to unite science and humanity. My motivation stems from a deep conviction that the ESC must continue to embody the finest traditions of European science and solidarity - an institution that leads not only through discovery but through its integrity, inclusiveness, and service to patients.

Strategic Vision for the ESC Future - The Seven Pillars

The ESC has developed a strong strategic foundation, yet the coming years will demand an even bolder and more cohesive vision. Building upon our existing framework, my strategy for the Society's next chapter is based on the following *seven strategic pillars* designed to ensure sustainability, scientific leadership, and social relevance.

1. ***Society Sustainability and Cohesion*** - Strengthening unity among constituent bodies, securing financial resilience, and ensuring efficient, transparent governance.
2. ***Education and Capacity Building*** - Expanding modern educational formats and integrating digital technologies to reach every cardiologist, everywhere.
3. ***Scientific Excellence and Integration of Knowledge*** - Promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration, fostering innovation, and reinforcing the link between clinical research and patient care.
4. ***Digital Integration and Collaboration among National Cardiac Societies*** - Creating shared digital infrastructures to enable data exchange, collaborative registries, and collective intelligence.
5. ***Advocacy, Quality of Care, and Patient Partnership*** - Enhancing the ESC's presence in Brussels and across Europe to influence health policy and champion the patient's voice in cardiovascular care.
6. ***International Synergies and Global Presence*** - Strengthening cooperation with sister societies worldwide to shape a unified global cardiovascular agenda.
7. ***Young Leadership and Mentorship Development*** - Investing in the new generation of cardiologists to ensure continuity, innovation, and shared purpose.

Commitment and Closing Statement

If entrusted with the presidency, I will work closely with the ESC Board, the Committee of Past Presidents, and our dedicated staff to preserve the Society's unity, credibility, and progress. My leadership will prioritize transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness, ensuring that every member feels represented in our common mission. A key priority will be to reinforce the ESC's institutional presence within the European Union, ensuring that our expertise continues to guide health policy and funding priorities at the highest level. The ESC has always embodied the best of European excellence—rigour, cooperation, compassion, and vision. As we enter an era of transformation, we must lead not only through innovation but through shared values and unity of purpose. If honoured with the role of President Elect, I will serve with humility and determination to ensure that the ESC remains a *beacon of excellence, a guardian of values, and a catalyst for the cardiovascular future of Europe and the world.*

My guiding principle will be to build *bridges and synergies* - among generations, disciplines, and nations - in a spirit of trust and friendship, as I did in leading the success of the *European Heart Journal*.

With my highest respect and commitment.

Professor Filippo Crea

Editor-in-Chief, *European Heart Journal*

Director, Centre of Excellence, Gemelli-Isola Hospital, Catholic University, Rome