



Brussels, 24 April 2017

Dear Dean,

On behalf of the professional and student organisations representing the Medical Doctors, the Dentists, the Veterinarians and our students, we are inviting you to work collaboratively under the 'One Health' concept to tackle current and future challenges for our professions and our society.

All organisations recognise that education is the cornerstone of our health competences, while underlining the importance of **interdisciplinary training** and creating a **"One Health" culture** among all future health professionals.

The six organisations call on you to foster exchanges between medical, dental and veterinary schools under the One Health approach and to undertake concrete initiatives to implement a common training of medical, dental and veterinary students¹.

Many global challenges and health risks are related to the contact between humans, animals and the environment in a globalised world. Examples are zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, modern diseases caused by the current lifestyle such as obesity and cancer, natural or manmade disasters, food and feed safety crisis, etc. Global trade and increasing mobility of humans, animals and goods facilitate these interactions, especially with regards to infectious diseases.

The One Health² approach recognises that the health of humans and animals as well as their ecosystems are interconnected. It addresses health risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interfaces and requires applying a multidisciplinary and cross-sectorial approach to address potential or existing risks. Rather than identifying and treating infections in isolation, One Health focuses on a collaborative and holistic surveillance of humans, animals and the environment to better predict and control diseases, as well as to better prepare and manage crises.

Faced with increasing cross-border threats to health such as the spread of infectious zoonotic diseases and increased resistance of microorganisms to antibiotics, cross-sectorial collaboration between doctors, veterinarians and dentists is needed in order to appropriately tackle these global challenges. Our professions need to coordinate not only the surveillance and control efforts but also prevention. Better understanding of the development and transmission of diseases can also arise from an increased collaboration in the research field.

While the One Health approach has recently gained recognition in Europe and worldwide, its application in education needs to be further encouraged and facilitated. This letter is addressed to all Medical, Dentist and Veterinary Education Establishments in Europe in order to stress that education, pre- and post-

¹ Our recommendation is also in line with the recommendation of the World Health Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), member of the FAO/OIE/WHO Collaboration (Tripartite), calling for "interdisciplinary education, in order to not only reflect recent scientific information and technical developments, but also to meet a wide range of social expectations".

² <http://www.onehealthinitiative.com/>

graduate, is key for ensuring the quality of the treatments delivered by the health professions. We want to underline the importance of creating a 'One Health' culture for future health professionals and encourage them to closely collaborate starting from their studies and throughout their professional life.

Only by implementing One Health education in the curricula and closely collaborating as professionals, will we be able to tackle the current and upcoming health challenges in our globalized world. Our organisations remain committed partners for future actions to be undertaken on the One Health approach.

Kind regards,

Dr Marco Landi



President of the Council of European Dentists

Mr Luka Banjšak



President of the European Dental Students' Association

Dr Jacques de Haller



President of the Standing Committee of European Doctors

Mr Stefan Hardt



President of the European Medical Students Association

Dr Rafael Laguens



President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

Mr Malcolm Chong



President of the International Veterinary Students' Association

The **Council of European Dentists (CED)** is a European not-for-profit association representing over 340,000 dental practitioners across Europe through 32 national dental associations and chambers in 30 European countries. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession, the CED aims to promote high standards on oral healthcare and dentistry with effective patient-safety centred professional practice, and to contribute to safeguarding the protection of public health. The CED is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 4885579968-84.

The **Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME)** represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU institutions and European policy-making through pro-active cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues.

- We believe the best possible quality of health and access to healthcare should be a reality for everyone.
- We see the patient-doctor relationship as fundamental in achieving these objectives.
- We are committed to interdisciplinary cooperation among doctors and with other health professions.
- We strongly advocate a 'health in all policies' approach to encourage cross-sectorial awareness for and action on the determinants of health.

The **Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)** is an umbrella organisation of 44 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing a total of around 240.000 veterinarians. FVE strives to promote animal health, animal welfare and public health across Europe. FVE is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 3959733732- 78. FVE www.fve.org
For further information, please contact: Jan Vaarten – info@fve.org

The **European Dental Students Association (EDSA)** was founded in Paris in November 1988. Now, the EDSA represents over 65,000 dental students in the European region. More and more dental students do see the need of coming together and talk about their differences but even more about the things they have in common.

The goals of the organisation

- to inform students about the E.C. organisation and politics in relation to dentistry
- to promote, inquire and describe the standardisation of dental curriculum within European dental schools
- to promote exchange programs and encourage students to take part in these programs
- encourage national dental students associations to co-operate on a national level
- to create possibilities to encourage students to meet each other on an individual level

Twice a year, all the delegates of the European Dental Students Association come together to brainstorm for new projects and keep improving the existing. Furthermore, we discuss dental politics, social and domestic affairs. Representatives of the national members (full and prospective) attend these general assemblies.

The **European Medical Students' Association (EMSA)** is a non-profit NGO representing medical students across Europe. Founded 1990 in Brussels, it is the only voice of students within European Medical Organisations. EMSA is recognized by the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the United Nations. The association provides a platform for high-level advocacy, projects, trainings, workshops and international meetings. EMSA envisions a united and solidary Europe in which medical students actively promote health. We want to empower medical students to advocate health in all policies, excel in medical research, interprofessional healthcare education and the protection of human rights across Europe.

The **International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA)** is a not-for-profit organization for veterinary students across the globe. The association was founded in 1953 in Germany and is voluntarily run by veterinary students since then. The mission of IVSA is to benefit the animals and people of the world, which is tried to accomplish by promoting and enabling international application of veterinary skills, education and knowledge. IVSA has approximately 30.000 members, who study at one-hundred different universities in over fifty different countries, representing every continent of the world.

IVSA is registered at the Transparency register with number 539959125869-16. IVSA www.ivsa.org
For further information please contact: Malcolm Chong or Denise van Eekelen - info@ivsa.org