

---

## Special article

# Collaboration of national societies and the European Society of Cardiology

Maarten L. Simoons

*President of the European Society of Cardiology*

---

(Ital Heart J 2002; 3 (3): 145)

Opening Address at the 62nd National Congress of the Italian Society of Cardiology (Rome, Italy, December 8-12, 2001).

*Address:*

Maarten L. Simoons, MD  
Thoraxcenter  
University Hospital  
Rotterdam  
Room H560  
P.O. Box 2040  
3000 CA Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
E-mail:  
Simoons@tch.fgg.eur.nl

Members of the Italian Society of Cardiology, or rather members of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), it is my pleasure to address you at this occasion and to discuss some developments within the ESC.

The ESC has currently some 40 000 members, from 47 countries and 27 Working Groups. This includes large countries such as Italy, and small treasures such as San Marino.

The ESC has expanded significantly. The Annual Congress is the largest medical meeting in Europe. We publish 6 journals, and have active programs for development of guidelines, continuing medical education and surveys. Italy has a prominent position in the ESC, with several chairmen of Working Groups and chairmen and members of ESC Committees. The voice of Italy, and other larger countries is heard indeed. Yet, the coordination of activities at the national levels and those within the ESC may be further improved. Therefore, in November, I invited the presidents of national societies of cardiology from six of the largest countries in Europe to the Heart House in Sophia Antipolis. Italy was represented by the president of the Italian Federation of Cardiology (Prof. Tavazzi) and by the president of the Italian Society of Cardiology (Prof. Chiariello). At that meeting we discussed and agreed to collaborate more closely, and to share our experiences to mutual benefit. Especially collaboration was considered for guideline development, educational programs and surveys and registries of the actual practice of cardiology in Europe. Just before your congress I saw a demonstration of the Italian registration system for cardiology practice, as developed by ANMCO in collaboration with the Italian Society. I was much impressed, and look forward to the application of this sys-

tem in practice, and of similar registration systems throughout Europe.

At the meeting with the presidents we also agreed to investigate the development of a common electronic membership card, particularly to register the participation of our members in programs for continuing medical education. Furthermore we agreed to investigate the development of other services for our members using modern information technology. Such systems are costly, and joined resources will allow the development of better products to the benefit of our membership.

The next European Congress of Cardiology will be held in Berlin, in September. In addition to the usual features two new programs will be included in our congress. First, a "*basic science tract*". In this series of symposia special attention will be given and extra room will be allocated to basic science related to cardiology. I look forward to an even greater participation of basic scientists in our congress.

The second feature will be a series "*focus in cardiology practice*". In addition to the "*focus imaging and intervention*", which was started 3 years ago, the new focus cardiology practice will be based on case presentations, with interaction of the audience through a voting system, directed at the appropriate application of guidelines for cardiology practice. The focus cardiology practice will be particularly relevant for your practice today. The material presented in this series of symposia will subsequently become available at the ESC website for educational purposes.

Members of the European and Italian Society of Cardiology, it was a pleasure to join you in this large annual event in Rome. I trust you had a good congress, and look forward to see you at the next European Congress of Cardiology in Berlin and at other programs of your ESC.