Happy New Year to all our members and friends.

We live in times of challenges but also of answers. COVID-19 is still among us, but vaccination has prevented many deaths, the Mpox epidemic appeared unexpectedly but was quickly controlled. The invasion of Ukraine has severely affected the lives of many people but has allowed solidarity and humanitarian aid to flourish.

At EACS, we have contributed to respond to these challenges. Despite them, we have maintained an intense activity in education and, in collaboration with other partners, worked on prevention and medical care of people living with HIV.

Thanking my colleagues in the Bureau and the Governing Board and all the staff of the Secretariat for their efforts and work, I humbly and with all my enthusiasm am taking over as president of EACS.

I intend to continue advocating the emblematic activities for which EACS is globally recognised, such as the Guidelines and the biennial European AIDS Conference, as well as the the most innovative and much-needed ones, like the Standard of Care and co-infections in Europe programme. We will strengthen the future generation by supporting their training in the management of HIV through the YING group, medical exchanges and mentorships, the HIV Summer School, and the Management of HIV and co-infections online course. I also hope that the existence of an HIV specialist title in Europe that we are working on will soon become a reality. We will continue to promote the welfare of women living with HIV through WAVE activities like the WAVE in Ukraine workshops and its working committees.

I wish to grow our members’ engagement in the EACS activities and encourage strongly those of you who are not yet a member to get involved. The countries of Eastern and Central Europe deserve a special mention, because of their leading role that will be highlighted with the celebration of the European AIDS Conference in Warsaw this year, 18-21 October.
Finally, I want to continue to develop partnerships with other stakeholders and societies with whom we share similar values, to establish permanent bonds of collaboration and growth together.

I will endeavour to listen to others and promote communication to serve my best during my mandate. I count on the support of each and everyone of you because only together we can make EACS better.

Esteban Martinez, President, EACS

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