

Professor Dodd's Inaugural Speech Given at the General Assembly On 26 September 2026

Dear Members of the EUSEM Emergency Medicine Family,

Let me say just a few words.

First of all, thank you for your trust and for believing in my ability to serve and lead our Society over the next two years. I will do my very best to ensure that EUSEM supports your passion and helps our specialty continue to develop.

I must admit that I feel a certain humility when I consider all the areas of emergency medicine that demand our vigilance and continued development.

Emergency medicine stands at the heart of healthcare and depends on a vast and complex network to function well. It is also a highly sensitive seismograph, registering every change in our world that affects healthcare.

A European Emergency Medicine Society must reflect this reality and support each of you, wherever you work. EUSEM should—and will—continue to provide a space where we can gather, analyse, discuss and share the knowledge we need to tackle the challenges we face every day.

EUSEM is the European forum that brings emergency physicians together. We know that exchange across regional and national borders is not merely beneficial; in these demanding times, it is essential. I believe EUSEM is the best forum in which to develop new strategies for our specialty.

So, what can you expect from me as President?

- 1) You can expect me to remain curious—and to listen to you.
- 2) You can expect me always to ask how EUSEM can support your initiatives. Together with the office, the Board, the chairs and the Council, we want to advance strong ideas. We will also champion gender balance and the involvement of the next generation.
- 3) Young people and women can count on EUSEM's support.

4) I will work hard to ensure that EUSEM brings emergency physicians together to develop new and sustainable strategies for the major challenges of today—and those we know lie ahead.

These challenges include:

- climate change;
- digitalisation and artificial intelligence;
- shrinking or limited financial resources;
- demographic change; and
- the need to build resilient emergency medicine infrastructure.

These are only the most obvious examples.

5) You can trust that I will do everything I can to help our specialty achieve the highest possible level of professionalism in every European country. When you attend the EUSEM Congress and EUSEM symposia, you will experience high-quality education and the latest research in our specialty.

But let me stop there. I am beginning to appreciate the true scale of the task ahead.

I will begin my presidency by addressing several essential organisational priorities within EUSEM—above all, stabilising our finances together with Davi and Diana.

I began with a heartfelt thank-you for your trust, and I would like to end with an enormous thank-you to Robert for the outstanding work he has done over the past two years. Robert, you have been an exceptional communicator and networker, building strong connections with the WHO, the EU and NATO. I am very grateful that you will remain by my side for another year. And I look forward to working with a very strong Board as we continue to make EUSEM an even more attractive and effective society.

I look forward to an inspiring and successful journey together with all of you.

Thank you very much.