

ASPHER's Presidency – November 2008 – Lisbon, Portugal

A statement from Antoine Flahault

I am honored to propose my candidature to the Presidency of ASPHER at the General Assembly in Lisbon, Portugal, on November 5th 2008. In January 2008, I was appointed the first Dean of the EHESP School of Public Health, Rennes, France, after its creation by French law, in August 2004. This endeavor is proceeding well allowing me to take up the tasks of leadership in public health education within the European region through the presidency of ASPHER.

My professional life has been devoted to public health. My background is MD, PhD, professor in public health, epidemiologist of infectious diseases and former director of the WHO collaborating centre for electronic disease surveillance.

There are three major reasons for my candidature:

- I am strongly committed to continuing the tremendous work which has been devoted to linking, reinforcing, or even mentoring the new schools or programs in public health in Europe. We need to take further steps forward in harmonizing education programs, in a similar way to the impressive work already achieved on core competencies in PH education, as well as fostering resources and scientific development in the field of public health.
- Secondly, I will concentrate my effort on reinforcing the participation of the large public health institutions in Europe, particularly those which have more or less abandoned supporting the work in progress in our organization in recent years while encouraging continuous cooperation with all the institutions that are actively involved in ASPHER's activities.
- Thirdly, I will invest my greatest efforts in stimulating and organizing active lobbying towards the European Union, to trigger a greater involvement and commitment of the Commission in the field of education and research in public health, particularly through the schools and programs of public health in Europe.

ASPHER should have a strong advocacy role in promoting public health practice in Europe. ASPHER should aim at having a real influence in public health policy and practice at the EU and/or WHO level, focusing on major issues. ASPHER also needs to reinforce the capacity of its members to share up-to-date analysis of public health data. ASPHER must take the lead in implementing and fostering a mentoring program for the schools which seek such help, in order to promote capacity development and to sustain the European model for health care and health insurance.

I ask for your support to allow ASPHER to carry out its missions with all the Schools of Public Health, be they large or small, in the European region, in a spirit of equity, excellence and cooperation in national and international projects.