Call to Action

3RD IOF WOMEN LEADERS ROUNDTABLE
STAND TALL, SPEAK UP FOR YOUR BONES

Brussels, Belgium, 14 October 2008

We have gathered to recognize that osteoporosis is a serious public health problem worldwide, and to issue this Call to Action to citizens of the European Union.

We express our appreciation at progress that has been made since May 2002 when the first IOF Women Leaders Roundtable was held in Lisbon, Portugal, followed by the second in Toronto in June 2006. We applaud improvements in several areas of diagnosis, prevention and treatment in many European Union member states. Yet many aspects of osteoporosis management remain unsatisfactory, specifically that those at high risk for fracture are not being identified in order to prevent the “fracture cascade” of future fractures.

We have the knowledge. We have the tools. We now need you to carry the message to policymakers across the European Union that osteoporosis and fractures can be largely prevented through timely diagnosis and cost-effective treatment.

Therefore, we issue this Call to Action to encourage healthcare professionals, policymakers, advocates, patients and their families as well as concerned EU citizens to all Stand Tall, and Speak Up For Their Bones!

We call on all EU citizens to:

- Make bone-healthy choices – through diet, exercise, lifestyle
- Learn about risk factors for fracture
- Advocate for full reimbursement for bone mineral density tests
- Insist on your government improving reimbursement for the most effective treatments before the first fracture occurs
- Speak out, as taxpayers and voters, to ensure that government officials make osteoporosis a priority on their health agendas
- Support your national osteoporosis patient society
3rd IOF Women Leaders Roundtable Members

Androulla Vassiliou
European Union Commissioner for Health
Cyprus

Barbara Miklić Türk
First Lady of Slovenia
Slovenia

Susan Hampshire
Theatre, Film and Television actress
United Kingdom

Maggie Philbin
Journalist
United Kingdom

Professor Cyrus Cooper, Moderator
Chairman, IOF Committee of Scientific Advisors
IOF Board Member