

Prof. Stephan Achenbach, FESC ESC President

March 3, 2022

Dear Professor Achenbach,

It is with deep regret that the Board of the Russian Society of Cardiology has read your letter and has considered it necessary to reply. It was discussed at the Presidium of the RSC Board and the members of the Presidium unanimously supported the text.

Never has been in the history of the global cardiology when we couldn't work with our international colleagues. Cardiology is cardiology in Russia, Europe and the USA. We all work for the benefit of our patients, for the sake of science and innovations in medicine.

The ESC's decision to suspend RSC's membership is deeply politicized and unfair. We have always assumed that ESC is a non-political public organization. As well as RSC is. We understand that you are under the political pressure and we sympathize with you. Nevertheless, this decision may be considered to be wrong.

We are confident that the future will put everything in its place, and our friendship and cooperation will recover.

Prof. Evgeny Shlyakhto President of the Russian Society of Cardiology