Herewith, I would like to welcome you to the seventh conference of the European Federation of Periodontology. It is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me that this leading periodontology and dental implantology congress is being held in Vienna. I would like to extend my thanks to the head of the organising committee, Dr Gernot Wimmer, and his team, who have prepared a great and diverse scientific programme.

Once again, Europerio will address important issues in dentistry. The focus of interest will be the latest trends and research findings in the fields of periodontology, implantology and dental hygiene. As far as we know today, oral health is a substantial part of general health and well-being. One of the main causes of tooth loss in adults is periodontitis. Since non-treated periodontal disease increases the risk of systematic non-communicative diseases, such as diabetes or heart and circulatory disease, it is essential to direct efforts towards preventing and treating those conditions, as well as combating shared risk factors, including poor nutritional habits and smoking.

Results from oral health surveys conducted in Austria reflect good oral health in our adult population. Fortunately, tooth loss and edentulism have become rare. At the same time, the percentage of prosthetic restorations has increased, with an obvious trend from removable dentures towards high-quality tooth replacements. Owing to the use of modern technologies and advancements in dental materials, implantology has now become inseparable from modern dentistry.

One of the main challenges for health systems in the 21st century is equality of opportunity. We are aware of the fact that socially and educationally disadvantaged groups have a lower likelihood of good health. Studies conducted at national and international level have demonstrated that this is also true of oral health. Social inequalities equal inequalities in oral health. As Minister of Health in Austria, one of my primary goals is to promote fairness of opportunity in both general and oral health.

On that note, let me wish you an interesting and successful conference, as well as plenty of opportunities for exchanging information with your peers. In addition to the professional programme offered at Europerio, I hope that your stay will give you the chance to explore our city’s many cultural and culinary highlights.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Vienna.

Yours faithfully,

Alois Stöger