Brussels – 26 May: It is a great honor to be able to serve FEAM at this challenging time when medicine and science have proven to be vital for the health and wealth of our society.

As the only European network of Academies focused on human and veterinary medicine and pharmacy representing over 4,000 among the best biomedical scientists in Europe, FEAM is in a strong position to inform the renewed high-level commitment to the One Health agenda at European and global levels resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and also to examine EU legislation impacting biomedical research and provision of health care in EU member states and associated countries with the aim to seek their better harmonization and a minimal standard of advanced clinical and molecular investigation across Europe.

Academic cooperation in the EU project ‘Science Advice for Policy by European Academies’ (SAPEA) with a FEAM focus on ‘Transforming the future of cancer screening with new technologies’ and our ongoing work on health inequalities and indirect impacts of pandemics through the EU project PERISCOPE will remain priorities for the foreseeable future. Harmonization of biomedical research funding will become a priority.

In recent years, FEAM has become highly relevant in Europe for key biomedical science and health issues such as healthy ageing, health data transfer and vaccination among others.

I would like to thank Prof. George Griffin, FEAM President from 2018 to 2021, for his tremendous contribution to these areas and Prof. Bernard Charpentier, his predecessor, for his pioneering work at SAPEA, and their unflagging support of FEAM. I look forward to building on their policy work which has strengthened the FEAM network and positioned it as a key actor on the European biomedical policy scene during my FEAM presidency.