



**Donostiako Udala
Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián**

John Beard
Director of the Department of Ageing and Life Course,
World Health Organization

Donostia-San Sebastián 13th November 2009

Dear Mr. Beard,

San Sebastián, capital city of the Province of Guipúzcoa, in the Basque Country, is a city which works intensely for the social cohesion and its population well-being.

Its natural beauty, landscape and historical heritage, the quality of urban-planning and outdoor public spaces, the wide range of cultural activities and international festivals, its bid for a sustainable mobility, its fight against the climate change, the quality of life, civic participation, innovation, ... are some of San Sebastian distinctive characteristics; a city which bids to become the European Capital of Culture in 2016.

It is essentially a people-orientated city, which has been actively working in an urban and social model of "human scale", with a special interest in the most innovative social and cultural projects.

One of them, precisely, focuses in the aged people, by putting into force innovative politics in several fields (accessibility, housing, active culture and leisure, social services...).

The Age-friendly City Project, from the Age-friendly Cities Network, WHO, is an excellent opportunity for the city to foster the social cohesion and to improve the quality of life of the aged and, consequently, of all of our citizens.



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Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián**

Therefore, as the Mayor of Donostia-San Sebastián I am pleased to hereby request the formal admission of our city to the Age-Friendly Cities Network.

San Sebastián has been engaged for some time now in this appealing international project and I would like to transmit you our active implication with all the procedures the membership in this worldwide network means. As first outcomes of the work developed until now, the report “*Donostia-San Sebastián an Aged-frienly City. Age-Friendly Cities Proyect-AFC*” has been written. This report, which entitled The Vancouver Protocol, contains a study elaborated with focus groups and descriptive analysis of the city.

I hope that your organization appreciates the enthusiasm and efforts the municipality of San Sebastian is doing by developing multidisciplinary and pedagogic politics and actions in order to become a more and more Aged-frienly City.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a blue oval. The signature appears to be 'Odon Elorza'.

Odon Elorza

Mayor of Donostia-San Sebastián

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