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Secretary General
AESOP Council of Representatives
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Dear AESOP Council of Representatives;

Please accept this letter as an application for the Chair of the AESOP Excellence in Teaching Award Committee whose term of office will start on 1 August 2015. It was very exciting to hear about this opportunity and to explore the possibilities to contribute to the constructive operation of this formation. With my professional, teaching and research background, I hope to take a lead in this process while bringing additional value to what the work of the committee has already created in many people's lives.

I consider planning as a way of life that offers a variety of opportunities to explore the profound richness of life. It strongly links to many other scientific and practical fields that bring more excitement into the process of learning through it. It is a continuous challenge to learn more and more about it and to explore further restlessly. Having said that, planning education has its own challenges in a way that push educators to find new ways of learning about it together with students and colleagues; and to keep motivating new professional candidates about the field and to integrate them to this wonderful journey. It can be quite a pleasant and elevating experience for everyone when innovative tools are sought in transmitting and generating the knowledge in a classroom setting. Doubtlessly, there are numerous success stories of such attempts across planning schools and the AESOP Excellence in Teaching Award Committee plays a crucial role in bringing some into light in Europe. It was an honor for me to receive the award in 2012 as a celebration of a collective effort that I was very happy to lead and coordinate. It would not come true without our great faculty team and our wonderful group of students. We have welcome the award as a promising opportunity to reach out a platform to exchange and reflect on experiences with others and to seek innovative ways together to teach planning. And due to our personal attempts, we were able to accomplish that to a certain degree with other award recipients. While this experience has shown me that this annual honoring event was making unique programmes visible, I could also resonate with some areas of improvement in that regard. Thus, in case of a given opportunity, I would be delighted to ensure the sustainable conduct of the committee. Moreover, I would be happy to take a lead on creating more opportunities to support the exchange and dialogue across varying conducts in planning education. We all need to update and transform ourselves and it is so valuable to become acquainted with what others find as ways of coping with this challenge. It is even more essential to construct shared experiences, for they bring us closer to universal yet locally workable diverse solutions. To do that, organization of search conferences and workshops, promotion of dialogue triggering sessions at annual congresses, invitation of educators from other fields such as neurosciences and quantum physics whose work greatly support creativity, intelligence, stress-free learning, happiness and peace in schools can be listed as some potential venues to follow.

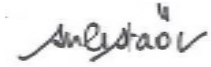
My resume outlines my professional, teaching and research experience in urban planning for more than 20 years in Turkey, the US, and Norway. I have doctorate degrees in environmental aesthetics, particularly in children and environment studies (The Ohio State University, the US), and in action research, particularly its application in strategic and community planning (Norwegian University of Science, Norway). I worked in a wide range of design and planning projects at prominent firms in Denmark, England, Turkey, and the US. For the last 15 years, I have been engaged in change processes, which kind of also sets my purpose in life. I have a strong desire to contribute to the liberation and democratization of human kind through change at both individual and social levels. In line with that, I conducted a variety of change projects with a variety of actors including public, private and civil society at various scales including institutional, spacial, neighborhood, urban, regional, in specific regions such as historic preservation sites, and with specific community groups such as children, youth and women. I taught courses on environmental aesthetics, participatory planning, research methods, and planning and basic design studios in the Department of City

& Regional Planning at Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey. And I continue to serve as a faculty in the same department. I also worked as a researcher at Work Research Institute (AFI) in Norway and taught courses on urban sociology and democratizing societies at Binghamton University, NY, the United States. Additionally, I co-founded and worked as a Vice President at the METU Wind Energy Research Center. I coordinated the departmental Erasmus and undergraduate/graduate/doctoral programs. Finally, I co-founded and managed a non-governmental organization, BIVAK (Co-existence) that aimed at constructing dialogue and peace across different cultures through arts and sports activities. Respectively, I have organized, participated, and coordinated numerous peace-making activities since 2003 especially among Turkish and Greek communities.

Given the opportunity, I will be honored to transpose my knowledge and experience to the practice of the AESOP Excellence in Teaching Award Committee. I see that this interactive opportunity will greatly support my vision both academically and globally while allowing me to contribute to the success of the committee.

Thanking you in advance for your time and consideration, I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Anlı Ataöv', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Anlı Ataöv