



Paris, march 2, 2021

Dear colleagues,

It is with enthusiasm and commitment that I present my candidacy as a regional board member for Europe.

I graduated as a physiotherapist in 1986 and have experienced multiple aspects and practice of our profession. First of all, as an employee in a physical rehabilitation centre during three years, then at the regional university hospital centre, in the surgical and trauma resuscitation department. After creating the first post of physiotherapist in the maternity ward and in the gynaecology department, I was in charge of the rehabilitation of premature or handicapped children in the natalogy department. I chose to leave the public hospital and to become a private practitioner, which I still am, like 85% of physiotherapists in France. I have seen the profession evolve strongly, in France and all over the world. Passionate about my profession, its ethical implications and its scientific advances, I quickly became involved in its representative bodies. First of all in a representative syndicate, to defend physiotherapists interests.

And since the creation of the French order of physiotherapists in 2006, I have been involved at the local level (I was the first president of my region, la Gironde) and then at the national level.

It is as Secretary General and then President of the French national council of physiotherapists (CNOMK) that I was able to **deploy my political skills to defend the honor of the profession**. At the national level, I forged ties with the Ministry of Health, but also with the Ministries of Sports, of European affairs, Higher Education and Research, as well as with the Presidency of the Republic and the Prime Minister, and with members of parliament in both French assemblies.

These relations allow me to constantly remind the central place of physiotherapy in the health system and its essential role for the health of our fellow citizens, both from a preventive and curative point of view. I am constantly involved in current debates and have achieved many **concrete results for France's 100,000 physiotherapists and their patients: digital practice such as telehealth, improved direct access possibilities, promotion of research, creation of a rehabilitation section at the university...**

The association EurHeCA (European health professionals competent authorities) which I chair, is carrying out this work with the European Parliament and European Commission and I am meeting on its behalf with members of parliament or commission to discuss the international circulation of health professionals, patient protection, and the differences in training levels between European countries.

Aware that there is strength in unity, I am continuing this work of institutional relations with other French institutions and in particular with the professional associations regulated in our country - I have moreover been vice-president of the liaison committee, but also with all the stakeholders in health, digital technology, physical activity, patient representatives and local elected officials.



It is finally with this in mind that the members of the CNOMK board and myself applied to World Physiotherapy. It seemed essential to us to represent France within this world organization and to join this movement of the future for our profession. Exchanges with the other member countries enrich our reflections and our daily practices.

This is why I wish today to go further and join the board of World Physiotherapy.

I would be happy to **share my skills and best practices in public relations and advocacy with member organizations**, to contribute to World Physiotherapy's actions to promote physiotherapy in all countries and at all levels. I keep in mind that World Health Organization pointed several times that "A large number of countries are not equipped to respond to existing rehabilitation needs. In some low- and middle-income countries, more than 50% of people do not receive the rehabilitation services they require." Therefore, the actions carried out by World Physiotherapy will be essential to promote physiotherapy and to give tools to strengthen the role of physiotherapists and the knowledge of their skills and their irreplaceable character to increase the quality of life.

As a Regional board member, I will bring cultural and linguistic diversity. I will thus represent the French-speaking world but also the South European culture and the Spanish language.

The pandemic has put the health world to the test. **During this crisis, French physiotherapists turned to their order for guidance and to defend their place in the fight against the coronavirus.** At my instigation, the elected officials and teams of the French national council mobilized to urgently answer all the questions, to enact rules for physiotherapy practices and to ensure that practitioners had all the tools and protections to take care of patients who needed them. Today, I wish to put this sense of teamwork and my ability to listen at the service of World Physiotherapy.

As president of the French national council, I am aware of the potential conflict of interest. Being accustomed to this issue through my past and present responsibilities, I will be able to step down when the need arises.

**My candidacy is part of a constructive approach, to bring democracy to life within World Physiotherapy.**

I would be happy to meet you to present my approach, what I wish to bring to the organization and how I intend to do it. Always listening and open to debate, I am looking forward to getting to know you and your expectations and exchanging our points of view.

Pascale Mathieu  
President  
French national council of physiotherapists