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World Physiotherapy <a href="mailto:tbury@world.physio">tbury@world.physio</a>

**Candidate Statement** 

February 25th, 2025

Dear colleagues,

with this letter, I, Constance Schlegl, born on Dec.20, 1971, confirm my high interest in serving World Physiotherapy as a regional board member for the European Region for the period 2025-2029.

I declare that I have read and followed the published instructions to the candidates.

I also confirm that I am aware of possible conflicts of interests with being the President of Physio Austria and a regional board member and ensuring abstention if necessary.

Within the last seven years I have been working on several topics on international level within the EU Matters Working Group of the European Region (periods 2018-2020, 2020-2022, 2022-2025) and also as a member of the Appeals and the Awards Committee of World Physiotherapy. Undoubtedly, the global development of our profession impacts our national progress. Therefore, I consider it essential to share experiences and collaborate within World Physiotherapy to advance matters related to our field.

Advocacy for our profession and negotiations with stakeholders are main topics in context with my role as the president of Physio Austria. This position allows me to contribute valuable insights to the development of Physiotherapy on the international stage.

I like to go into discussions and evaluate pros and cons and find solutions within a team. I consider myself as a team player and open for different opinions, cultures and beliefs. Stepping forward when it is necessary to be a strong voice is my pleasure, but also taking a step back when it is required by the given circumstances is no problem for me. Furthermore, I clearly see the importance of the Role of Physiotherapy in our society and the responsibility that World Physiotherapy has as a global organisation advocating for social, ecologic and ethic topics.

My experience and knowledge as a Public Health expert allow me to contribute to the development of identified themes of specific interest for enhancing the role of Physiotherapy and strengthening World Physiotherapy. For many years I have been working in disease management programs (e.g.: integrated care, primary health care) and other health-related topics (e.g.: e-health strategy, guidelines development, health care planning) lead by the Austrian ministry of health and also successfully negotiated the renewal of our professional law in 2024. Therefore, I am also familiar with legal matters. During the pandemic, I had the chance to learn a lot about crisis management and leading a team under extraordinary circumstance. Being connected on the international floor is a huge advantage during challenging times.

It would be a great honour and pleasure for me to bring in my knowledge and experience in the board of World Physiotherapy as a regional board member for the European Region and to make my contribution for the development of our profession.

Yours sincerely,

Constance Schiegl, MPH