Charter of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy

ADOPTED
General Meeting 26 – 28 April 2018
Dublin, Ireland
INTRODUCTION
The European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy was established through a merger of WCPT Europe (The World Confederation of Physical Therapy – European Region) and the SLCP (Standing Liaison Committee of Physiotherapists in the EU) in September 1998.

The aims and the objectives of the SLCP were to maintain the interest of physiotherapists in the European Union. The aims and objectives of WCPT Europe were to act as the region of the WCPT in all matters that could promote the regional interests of the WCPT.

The reason for the merger was a wish to co-ordinate the efforts and to use the available resources in one joint organisation to the benefit of the physiotherapy associations and physiotherapy professionals of Europe.

The European Region is a Region of WCPT and is bound by its Articles of Association.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME
The name of the organisation shall be the European Region of the World Confederation for Physiotherapy (ER-WCPT), which will be referred to as The European Region.

ARTICLE 2 – AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
The European Region is a non-profit non-governmental organisation of European professional associations of physiotherapists who are also Member Organisations of WCPT.

The specific aims and objectives of the European Region shall be:

2.1 To promote the development of reciprocity of physiotherapy qualifications and to improve the quality of Physiotherapy education and practice in Europe.

2.2 To promote Physiotherapy in Europe and to oversee all matters dealing with physiotherapy.
2.3 To facilitate migration and the right of establishment of physiotherapists in Europe, within the National and EU legislative framework.

2.4 To encourage closer co-operation among the national physiotherapy associations within the European Region in all professional matters in the interest to improve general health of the population of the region.

2.5 To co-operate with international organisations in Europe to promote the aims and objectives of the European Region.

2.6 To represent the interests of and speak for its Member Organisations with European Authorities.

2.7 To develop policies and declarations for proposition to the Executive Committee and General Meeting of the WCPT.

2.8 To represent the profession of Physiotherapy on a regional basis in consultation with the Executive Committee or as delegated by the Executive Committee of the European Region.

ARTICLE 3 – ACTIVITIES

The aims and objectives shall be fulfilled by the following activities:

3.1 Encourage by all means the international exchange of physiotherapy educational curricula, the promotion of evidence-based practice, research, articles and journals.

3.2 Encourage the international exchange of educators, researchers and students.

3.3 Monitor demand and supply of physiotherapists in the European Region and inform governments and other appropriate bodies of over- and under-supply in relation to demographic needs in co-operation and in consultation with the national Member Organisations.

3.4 Identify and promote postgraduate physiotherapy programmes recognised by the Member Organisations and encourage international participation.

3.5 Establish Working Groups in chosen areas of Physiotherapy.

3.6 Promote and develop educational and professional congresses, seminars and conferences for the benefit of the Physiotherapy profession.
3.7 Maintain essential relations with European constituent organisations and authorities. Examine all matters concerned with publication of EU Directives, regulations, projects and all other decisions or proposals, which may affect physiotherapists, and to inform the competent authorities.

3.8 Promote the Physiotherapy profession and its activities by public relations in all aspects.

3.9 Encourage the collaboration between members of associations, individually or in groups.

3.10 Initiate other professional activities in the European Region.

3.11 Act upon recommendations of the Executive Board of WCPT.

3.12 Contribute regularly to the Newsletter of WCPT and to encourage physiotherapists and associations in the European Region to do the same.

3.13 Report annually to the Executive Board of WCPT on the activities of the European Region and its finances.

3.14 Consider support to other Regions of WCPT in achieving their aims and objectives for mutual benefit.

3.15 Undertake any other activities as decided by the European Region Executive Committee and the General Meeting.

ARTICLE 4 – AFFILIATION

4.1 All Member Organisations of the European Region must be Member Organisations of WCPT.

4.2 The Executive Committee may grant observer status to physiotherapy organisations within the European Region that have been granted provisional membership status by WCPT.

4.3 All physiotherapy organisations in the European Region that have expressed an interest in becoming members of WCPT may be invited as observers.

ARTICLE 5 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1 The elected members of the Executive Committee shall be the Chairman, the First vice-Chairman, the Second vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and the member from the European Region elected to the Executive Board of WCPT.
5.2. The candidates must be physiotherapists having a written, signed endorsement by the Chairman or President of their own Member Organisation.

5.3. Nomination of candidates for election to the Executive Committee should be sent to the General Secretary not less than three months before the General Meeting during which the election will take place.

5.4. The General Meeting shall elect each of the Executive Committee members by successive, separate and secret ballot. The members will take office immediately after the General Meeting.

5.5. The members of the Executive Committee will each serve for a term of four years and will be eligible for re-election.

5.6. The term of office of the Chairman and Treasurer shall not be combined with that of the 1\textsuperscript{st} vice-Chairman and 2\textsuperscript{nd} vice-Chairman. Elections for the Chairman and Treasurer shall take place at a General Meeting with the election of the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} vice-Chairman taking place at the subsequent General Meeting.

5.7. The WCPT Executive Board member from the European Region shall be elected by secret and separate ballot at the European Region’s General Meeting immediately preceding the WCPT General Meeting. The elected member shall also serve on the WCPT Board in accordance with the WCPT Articles of Association and WCPT Governance Framework. The term of office ends following the WCPT Congress that is held in conjunction with the WCPT General Meeting. The election of the WCPT Board Member shall be confirmed at the subsequent WCPT General Meeting.

5.8. The Executive Committee is responsible for the establishment of a secretariat and the employment of staff necessary for the administration of the European Region.

5.9. There shall be up to two alternate members elected to the Executive Committee to take the place of an officer in the event of permanent absence for the remainder of that officer’s election period.

5.10. Only physiotherapist members of a Member Organisation may be nominated to the Executive Committee of the European Region.

5.11. Every Member Organisation may nominate one or more members for a position on the Executive Committee. However, only one member from any Member Organisation may be elected to the Executive committee at any time.
5.12. The powers of the Executive Committee are to direct the daily administration of the European Region and execute the decisions of the General Meeting. The Executive Committee acts as the highest authority of the European Region between General Meetings.

5.13. The Executive Committee shall decide their own procedure of meetings.

ARTICLE 6 – WORKING GROUPS OF THE EUROPEAN REGION

6.1 The Executive Committee may establish Working Groups to fulfil certain tasks or develop areas of specific interest.

6.2 The Working Groups are advisory bodies to the Executive Committee and must act within the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

6.3 The Working Groups may include members from associations with special interest and knowledge. The Chairman will be appointed by the Executive Committee.

6.4 The Executive Committee must establish general rules for the framework of the Working Groups.

ARTICLE 7 – GENERAL MEETING

7.1 A General Meeting of the European Region shall be held at least every second year.

Extraordinary meetings shall be called by the Chairman at the request of a minimum of four out of five members of the Executive Committee or at the request of more than one third of the Member Organisations stating the proposed agenda item(s).

7.2 All proposals must be received by the secretariat for distribution on the dates set in the notice of the General Meeting.

7.3 The Secretariat must distribute the agenda and supportive documents for the General Meeting at least two months prior to that meeting.

7.4 Member Organisations may send no more than three delegates to the General Meeting and observer organisations may send no more than two delegates. Attendance of observers will normally be limited to two General Meetings. The delegates must be authorised as such by the Member Organisation in writing.
7.5 The President, Vice-President and the CEO of WCPT may attend the General Meetings of the European Region and will have the right to speak.

7.6 All delegates of Member Organisations have a right to speak but only one vote per delegation will be allowed.

7.7 The Member Organisations may decide to include a non-physiotherapist in their delegation.

7.8 The voting delegate must be a physiotherapist.

ARTICLE 8 – CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS

8.1 The rules of procedure of General Meetings shall be proposed by the Executive Committee on each occasion and approved by the delegates.

8.2 Minutes of the General Meeting shall be taken and must be distributed to all member organisations, normally within three months of the meeting.

ARTICLE 9 – VOTING AT THE GENERAL MEETING

9.1 No matters may be brought to a vote unless a quorum of over 50% of the total membership of the European Region is present.

9.2 General Meeting decisions shall be made in the following manner:

9.2.1 The meeting will work to achieve the largest possible consensus of opinion on all matters relating to the practice of Physiotherapy.

9.2.2 On the basis of a simple majority vote in all matters relating to the general administration of the European Region except for the modification of the charter, which requires a two-thirds majority.

9.3 In all matters brought to the vote, each Member Organisation will have one vote.

9.4 Method of voting will be by a show of hands unless a written vote is requested.

ARTICLE 10 – FINANCE

10.1 Each member and observer organisation shall pay the annual membership fee decided by the General Meeting.
10.2 The financial year of the European Region shall be from the 1st of January to the 31st of December.

10.3 Membership fees shall be paid into the bank account opened by the Treasurer for and on behalf of the European Region.

In default of payment of the membership fee by the due date, all membership rights will be forfeited for that financial year, or until such time as the outstanding subscription is paid.

10.4 The Treasurer shall present a financial report for approval at the General Meeting as audited by elected auditors at the General Meeting.

10.5 The General Meeting shall decide the budget for the next/following financial years.

10.6 All costs related to the attendance at General Meetings and Working Group Meetings, including travel and accommodation, registration fees and any other costs pertaining to these, by delegates to the General Meeting, Working Group members and observer, with the exception of the Members of the Executive Committee and General Secretary, shall be met by the members themselves.

10.7 All travel, hotel and other expenses for meetings conducted by the European Region or expenses made by any member of the Executive Committee, as representatives of the European Region shall be the responsibility of, and paid for by the European Region. Members of the Executive Committee are expected to ensure economy in travel and accommodation.

ARTICLE 11 – OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

11.1 The official languages of the European Region for all meetings are English and French, and for all documents is English.

11.2 All documents concerning the meetings should be sent in English at least six weeks prior to the fixed date.

ARTICLE 12 – AMENDMENTS OF THE CHARTER

12.1 The Charter may be amended at any General Meeting.

12.2 Notice of the General Meeting including the time and place shall be given to the Member Organisations at least nine months before the date of the meeting, except in the case of an Extraordinary General Meeting.
12.3 The General Secretary must receive proposed amendments of articles at least six months prior to the General Meeting.

12.4 A two-thirds affirmative vote is required to adopt an amendment of the articles.

ARTICLE 13 – DISSOLUTION
13.1 A motion proposing the dissolution of the European Region shall be considered only at a special meeting called for that purpose. At least two-thirds of the voting delegates must be present.

13.2 A two-thirds affirmative vote of the voting delegates present is required for dissolution.

13.3 If such a motion is carried, a written referendum shall be called within sixty days to confirm or revoke the vote to dissolve.

13.4 In the case of dissolution of the European Region for whatever reason, the Member Organisations jointly undertake to cover any liabilities of the European Region.

13.5 Furthermore, the European Region members shall make a decision for the disposal of assets to the WCPT and in absence of a World Confederation, to a non-profit-making organisation(s) of physiotherapists.