

15.12.2022

Dear Mr Jonathon Kruger,

As a member organization of World Physiotherapy, we feel obligated to inform you about the discussions taking place among our members and about the decisions that the Council of the Polish Chamber of Physiotherapists is entitled to make.

During the Council meeting in October this year, the Council members started a discussion on KIF membership in World Physiotherapy. The discussion concerned both the benefits, but also the large financial outlays associated with it. As a result of the discussion, a resolution on not extending KIF membership for 2023 was put to a vote at the Council meeting in November. Out of 74 members of the Council, the majority voted against continuing KIF membership, arguing their choice with benefits inadequate to the costs incurred.

Given that Poland, according to the World Bank data, is in the group of high-income countries, our organization pays the highest possible contributions, even though GNI per capita (US\$ 16.67 as of the 2021 year) is one of the lowest in this group of countries. In addition, Poland is in a deep economic crisis, and the recently reported inflation (November 2022) oscillates around 17.5%. The KIF budget is based solely on the proceeds from membership fees, which we maintain at the same, unchanged level. Having the above in mind and knowing that the World Physiotherapy fee for a physiotherapist is GBP 1.53, and KIF already has already 75,000 members and is obliged to pay for all, the cost of nearly GBP 115,000 is too high. It is also worth adding that this is still the cost of membership in World Physiotherapy, to which nearly EUR 75,000 should be added for KIF to be an active member of the World Physiotherapy Europe Region.

Nevertheless, being aware of the many benefits of being a member of the global physiotherapists' community and the involvement of our representatives in the education committee or subgroups, as well as our members' voices, during the last Council meeting in December the issue of KIF membership was raised again. After a long discussion and an exchange of arguments for and against, the majority of Council members again voted against continuing membership, maintaining the argument about the benefits disproportionate to the increasing costs incurred.

Taking into account both the Council decision, the voices of the physiotherapy community, and our beliefs, we would like to find a solution that will ensure that the voice of Polish physiotherapy will be heard in the structures of World Physiotherapy. On December 19, the board of the Council planned a round-table meeting, to which we invited a wide representation of various physiotherapist communities (e.g. scientific associations) to discuss the situation and work out solutions that are most beneficial to the physiotherapist community. Right after the end of the meeting, we will inform you about its effects.

Please brief the World Physiotherapy board on our situation.

Looking forward to our cooperation.

Kind regards,

Dr Tomasz Dybek

President of the Polish Chamber of Physiotherapists

15.12.2022

Dear Tomasz

Thank you for your email regarding the recent discussions within Krajowa Izba Fizjoterapeutów (KIF) about World Physiotherapy membership.

Your concerns about membership costs are not a surprise. I have had a number of discussions on the issue of membership costs when Professor Maciej Krawczyk was president. Most recently when I visited KIF in Warsaw in October 2021.

At the last meeting of the World Physiotherapy board, 10-11 December 2022, the trustees were informed that the council of KIF was considering a decision to resign from World Physiotherapy.

I was instructed to follow up with you on this matter but your email today arrived before I had a chance to initiate discussions with KIF.

While disappointed that KIF will be the first organisation to voluntarily leave World Physiotherapy in seven decades - the decision to resign membership of World Physiotherapy is entirely up to KIF.

We fully respect the wishes of your members.

The World Physiotherapy constitution states:

Resignation

15.1 An organisation's membership of the WCPT ends automatically on 31 December in any year if the Member Organisation submits written notice of its resignation to the Chief Executive Officer in the same year.

If there is no subsequent communication from KIF, then I can advise that your communication from this morning will be accepted as written notice of your intention to resign from World Physiotherapy from 31 December 2022.

Please be aware that our constitution outlines a very clear process for applications for membership of World Physiotherapy. It is not possible for the Polish physiotherapy community to independently work out a solution as you suggest in your email. Acceptance of membership is entirely a matter for World Physiotherapy and our members to decide.

Therefore if KIF voluntarily resigns membership of World Physiotherapy then there will be no member organisation from Poland in World Physiotherapy in 2023.

If you wish to discuss these matters then I would make myself available to meet.

Kind regards

Jonathon Kruger

Chief executive officer

World Physiotherapy

21.12.2022

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22.12.2022

Dear Tomasz

Thank you for your letter.

I can confirm acceptance of the resignation letter of Krajowa Izba Fizjoterapeutów (KIF) from World Physiotherapy membership.

All rights and duties for KIF and your members will cease on 31 December 2022.

Kind regards,

Jonathon Kruger

Chief executive officer

World Physiotherapy