

Dear friends and colleagues!

Thank you for your friendly letter. But your concern is not even a question for me. In my time as DG in the Ministry of Health in Austria, I strongly supported the position and the role of a CNO! I am truly wondering that WHO doesn't have this function and role!! You know, we cannot talk about UHC without a strong role of nurses. We cannot talk about PHC without a totally new interdisciplinary and multi-professional approach. One of my last huge reform projects in Austria, the establishment of a new legal base for new PHC entities, we very much established this strong role and functions of nurses. The strongest opposition came from the doctors' association, by the way. But nevertheless, we succeeded to put that into legislation.

So to be very frank and open, the world doesn't need only CMOs. We also need CNOs. And if WHO/Euro doesn't have this position, it will get it. Immediately after me taking office.

Your message reached me at the beginning of my vacation, but I want to make clear that I have a very clear and strong position on this. I even put that into my application material, especially in the context of training and educating a new generation of health professions in the setting of PHC.

All the best and enjoy the rest of the summer!

Clemens Martin Auer