

**ERO - Plenary session
23rd September 2015, Bangkok**

Bangkok International Trade & Exhibition Center (BITEC)
88 Bangna-Trad Road (Km.1), Bangna, Bangkok 10260, Thailand
Web: www.bitec.co.th

14h00 – 17h00

Minutes

A Welcome / opening of the session

Philippe Rusca welcomes those present, especially Wolfgang Doneus (President CED) and Marco Mazevet (Past President of EDSA - European Dental Students' Association). He announces that the agenda will experience a few variations, as some participants of this meeting (especially working group chairperson and FDI council candidates) participate in other concurrent sessions and thus potentially might not be able to provide their contribution at the time scheduled in the agenda.

Tellers are Nico Diederich und Jürgen Fedderwitz

B Agenda of the business meeting

B.1 Roll call – Verification of the quorum

Hans Schrangl calls all registered delegates and alternate delegates by name. 62 delegates are present. The quorum is thus given.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved. Under point B 7 a representative of the Dental Association of Kazakhstan wants to make a presentation. No one opposes

B.3 Approval of the minutes of Tbilisi

The minutes of the plenary session in Tbilisi are adopted without amendment.

B.4 Information of the Board

Philippe Rusca informs that the ERO board has entered into contact with the ADEE (Association for Dental Education in Europe). Mainly the working group "relations between universities and private practitioners" aims at closer cooperation. Both sides have agreed to do so. In addition, a contact with the EDSA (European Dental Students Association) has been linked in the meantime. It is important to have the support of the young dentists.

Michael Frank informs about the finances. Overall, everything is going well. Some national associations though are causing problems regarding the payment of the membership contributions (e.g. Russia). He asks to contact the board / treasurer if there are financial problems in the individual member associations. We will always try to find a solution. As treasurer, he is bound by the Constitution and he asks to pay the membership fees in

accordance with the reported number of members. This is done sometimes somewhat delayed; in the case of Russia, the delay is a bit large. At present, still significant arrears from 2014 are listed and we do not know how it will be for 2015, declares Michael Frank. The Board has agreed in Tbilisi with Vladimir Sadovsky that a deposit of 1/3 takes place immediately and the remaining 2/3 to be paid successively. However, that did not happen. We are somewhat surprised or concerned that in Russia the number of dentists has decreased in a year from 32,000 to 4000. How is that possible? The ERO Board is also amazed about the reaction of the FDI Council, who has accepted this statement about the loss of members. We will try to find a solution and inform again.

Elena Ivanova was asked by the President of the "Chief Dental Officers" to take the floor. She informs that they are looking for an explanation why they have lost so many members and promises to inform as soon as possible.

The ERO President as well is very surprised about the decision of the FDI Council to grant Russia a reduction of the contribution by 7/8. This time the usually open policy with the FDI has not taken effect. However, our constitution does not oblige us to make the same decisions. Actually, we would have to exclude Russia. Of course, we do not want to take such drastic measures and will continue to discuss and try to find a solution.

Peter Engel is also very concerned about the number of dentists in Germany and hopes that FDI will equally show understanding for them. His association did give a good example, explains Nick Sharkov. In Bulgaria, the whole situation had collapsed and they had lost - for political reasons - a lot of money, but paid their contribution anyway. If we now start to make such exceptions, there will be more in a short time. He refers to the constitution that everybody must comply with and is supported in this vote by Beat Wäckerle.

B.5 Working groups

As a preliminary to this point Philippe Rusca suggests having a look at the "Clinical Guidelines in Dentistry for Diabetes" published by the Turkish Dental Association and which is to be found on the front page of the ERO website. He encourages other member associations to provide us with such valuable documents.

1. Relation between dental practitioners and university

Nermin Yamalik reports on the work of her WG. She explains how resources for clinical practice can be developed and how clinical guidelines for dental practices are perceived. Her presentation can be found the ERO website

(<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/bangkok-2015/minutes>). At the end of her speech, she briefly informs about the planned cooperation between ERO and ADEE.

Philippe Rusca thanks for this very detailed, complete, and interesting presentation and wishes all the best for the cooperation with the ADEE.

2. Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst Jürgen Otterbach remarks in the introduction to this point of the agenda that he did not intend to evoke a gender discussion in Tbilisi. In order to dispel any possible misunderstandings, he therefore removed the term feminization from the following statement on Liberal dental practice in partnerships, practice networks and medical care units that was sent by mail to all NDAs. No objections to this paper were raised. Today the working group reviewed this statement. Two younger dentists have been consulted specifically on this topic.

The past-president of EDSA, Marco Mazevet and Thomas Wolf from Germany as representative of the university who looks after the students at the University of Mainz. This issue (liberal practice in practice partnerships) and its development must be observed and followed in the future. He reads the statement (see website), which is not the last to be made on this issue and would be happy if the delegates could adopt it.

Marco Mazevet of the European Dental Students Association takes the floor. He thanks for having been given the possibility to participate in this Assembly. His association supports this statement. He reads the text adopted by the EDSA (see website).

Then Nick Sharkov, Peter Engel, Stefaan Hanson, Georgios Tsiogas, Hans Schrangl, Jürgen Fedderwitz and Ralf Wagner have the floor. They also support this statement. The clear position of the EDSA representative in favour of the "Franchising Models" is noted with interest. The working group should create clarity in this respect, because certain forms of professional practice cannot necessarily been brought in line with the concept of liberal profession. Philippe Rusca and Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach confirm that this will be the next step and that the subject will remain on the agenda of the Working Group. Further, it is noted that co-operations with companies utilising the franchising system are very difficult to control and therefore it is important that the ethical requirements be defined from our side. Practice start-ups should not be directed by borrowed capital and only focuses on shareholder values. This is the worst form of care that we could offer our patients. With this no area-wide dental care can be achieved, but rather dentistry would only be available, where profit for the sponsoring bodies is guaranteed. It is positive that the young colleagues see this the same way. Further, it is politically most sensitive, that we discuss about franchising and on the other hand proceed massively against the terms like "capital commitment" and legal forms. Here we should keep clear positions; otherwise, we would be politically implausible.

The Declaration is finally adopted unopposed.
The working group will continue to work.

3. Integration

Elena Ivanova presents the recent activities of the Working Group (see ERO Website) and thanks the members, which do a very good job. The activities of this group extend not only to Russia, but to all Eastern states. Various local prevention programs are planned and a "roadmap" has already been set up. The WG Integration is also involved in the training; a meeting on this topic took place in St. Petersburg. There are concepts how the training in the different specializations should take place. They shall be adapted to the EU regulations. The regulation on the accreditation of specialists has been adjusted. At this point, she thanks Michele Aerden and the ERO Board for their great support. Currently, the Working Group is preparing a survey in Central and Eastern Europe, the results of which will be presented in Baku.

Philippe Rusca is pleased to note that they have the Balkans integrated into the work of the WG. He thanks for the good work done under not always simple conditions.

Peter Engel refers to the statement of Elena Ivanova, who said it is being worked on standards for dental practice. The CED in Brussels has to do with standardization and normalization too, and certain things are looked at very critically there and that is why he asks to differentiate exactly what falls under the standardization so that it does not lead to confusion. There are structures in the practice that could be standardized and there are procedures and diagnoses, which cannot be standardized, and here one must make a distinction, in order not to be contradictive.

Jürgen Fedderwitz confirms Philippe Rusca 's assumption that this concerns the Western level of dentistry. It is a matter of making the standards of education comparable between

different countries. In some countries there are also many private institutions offering dental training, which makes it even the more necessary to elaborate certain standards.

4. Dental Team

Michael Frank takes the place of Edoardo Cavallé who is engaged in another session and informs on the state of affairs in this working group. The DA, PA and DH profiles are "dealt with"; the next topic is the profile of the dental technician. FDI has issued a new Policy Statement in this regard. Even though this contains many basic statements, the WG believes that it would make sense to intervene something deeper and more precisely in the matter. Although this is a stand-alone professional image, we should think about what demands we make on a dental technician, how the cooperation should look like. The delegates seem to agree with this approach. There is no request to speak.

5. Continuing medical education in dentistry

Hande Sar Sancakli reads the statement (see ERO website), which had been sent to the member associations by e-mail before. She thanks the working group and all who have supported this work.

Philippe Rusca, Susie Sanderson and Hendrike Van Drie compliment Hande Sar Sancakli to this document, which underlines and highlights the value of our profession. Therein it is confirmed that the dentist is able to identify - cutting across all disciplines - oral or systemic diseases. The question is raised whether in this statement one talks of referral to a specialist or a general practitioner. This, Hande Sar Sankacli answers, has been deliberately left open, as it depends on the health system of each country. However, the intention was to clearly state in this paper that the dentist is part of the medical chain.

This resolution is adopted unanimously.

6. Quality in dentistry

It is difficult to define quality, remarks Roland L'Herron. It has therefore not been easy to define the aim of the working group. It can be about the professional quality or about the quality of the treatment environment or the quality of the treatments themselves. This includes financial aspects, procedures, etc. It had therefore been decided to put the focus on the environment of different therapies and treatments and to work on a self-assessment tool. The Working Group would like to propose a checklist of recommendations for improving the work and practice of the dentists. It was not the point of setting up a whole series of lists that already exist in Europe. Roland L'Herron emphasizes that the dentist may make use of this checklist or not, as he wishes. It is not about the laws and regulations of the respective countries; because who wants to hold on to these, does not need to deal with this checklist. It should help the dentist to be able to assess and determine his work and practice and to detect where improvements and corrections are possible or necessary.

Roland L' Herron thanks his colleagues for the good and active participation. A brief presentation provides an insight into the progress of work. 80 recommendations in different chapters have been drafted. There shall be a second reading of the checklist, to make sure that all our concepts and definitions are correct. The document is then sent to the member associations, which will be given the opportunity to comment. Finally, it should be translated into as many languages as possible. In Spring everything should be ready.

Philippe Rusca thanks for this report. He believes that the Working Group on the right track.

7. Establishment of a new working group

The Board had decided to establish a new working group, declares Philippe Rusca. Its topic: Elderly patients. This working group should however be organized differently than that of FDI. There is no competition sought. We want to exchange the experiences in the different

European countries and carry out an analysis of the political aspects. He asks those present to check within their national associations if there are colleagues who would be interested in contributing in this task and if so, to report their names to the ERO Secretariat.

Denis Bourgeois has also convened the member of the Working Group prevention for a meeting here in Bangkok. However, unfortunately he is not here at this moment to inform about the outcomes.

- B.6 Plenary session 2016** (29./30. April) – Baku, Azerbaijan
- Plenary session 2016** (during FDI congress) – Poznan, Poland
- Plenary session 2017** (21./22. April) – Geneva, Switzerland

B.7 Miscellaneous

Azamat Baigulakov, President-elect of the Kazakhstan Dental Association presents two educational and training projects: WODE (World Online Dental Education) and WODL (World Online Dental Library). These are online platforms, which offer worldwide training opportunities in dentistry, encourages cooperation between FDI and the national associations and the collaboration of dentists within their association, and aims to improve the quality of dental services and thus the global oral health. In addition, teachers and lecturers is offered the possibility of knowledge exchange. The responsibility for the quality of the transmission of the webinar, the simultaneous translation in the most common languages, and the choice of speakers would be at the FDI. In addition, FDI would receive feedback from the webinar participants and would in turn transmit it to the speakers. Reference is made to Azamat Baigulakov's presentation on the ERO website for more information.

Philippe Rusca thanks for this input. This is a very ambitious project.

B.8 Information on FDI matters

All candidates for a post in the FDI Council or as President-Elect of the FDI are given the opportunity to briefly present themselves. The President reads out the letter of Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, who unfortunately cannot attend in person due to a recent appendectomy.

Although there certainly are very eligible candidates from other continents, Philippe Rusca asks those present to support the European candidates as much as possible in the upcoming elections.

C Close of the meeting – adjournment

The president thanks all those present for the active participation and the translators for their valuable, not always easy work and adjourns the meeting.

The President:

For the minutes:

Dr. Philippe Rusca

Monika Lang