

## **NATIONAL REPORT 2017**

Country: Switzerland  
Organisation: Swiss Dental Association SSO  
Meetings: ERO – 21st / 22nd April 2017 in Geneva  
CED - 26th / 27th Mai 2017 in Malta

**The immigration of dentists from the European Union to Switzerland is still very important. Until now 5014 diplomas of dentists from the EU have been recognized by the Swiss authorities.**

### **I. Changes in the National Association and their structures**

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### **II. Trends and developments**

#### **Immigration of dentists from the European Union**

This topic remains a major concern for Swiss dental practitioners. The number of diplomas from the EU recognized to date (5014), related to the number of dentists who are members of the SSO (5550), gives an idea of the discomfort there is in this respect.

#### **« Initiative vaudoise » for the reimbursement of dental care**

A compulsory dental insurance would undermine the individual responsibility of the patient and the free choice of therapy for the practitioner and his / her patient. The result of the vote will be signal for other cantons. Political interventions along the same lines have been tabled in other cantons. To date, the vote has been postponed from deadline to deadline and is now expected to take place in autumn 2017. The SSO and the cantonal sections are actively working on this important decision which may affect a system that has had its prove of value for decades.

## **Gerodontology**

At the end of May a new edition of the "oral hygiene manual" was published. The new book is available in French, German and Italian. Written for the attention of the nursing staff the tool convinces as much by its graphic presentation as by its contents. All homes and institutions for the elderly received two copies.

The Code of Ethics states in art. 18: "The dentist considers it a professional duty to engage in geriatric dentistry".

All Swiss universities have introduced geriatric dentistry in their basic education and offer a variety of continuing education courses.

## **The Swiss island of high cost**

Every year the Economist publishes the Big Mac index, which expresses the effect of the rise in local prices induced by local wages and rents on a product that allows an international comparison, the Big Mac precisely. It is in Switzerland that the Big Mac is the most expensive. It costs \$ 6.44 compared to \$ 4.93 in the US and \$ 4 in the euro area.

## **Changes in the tariff for dental treatments**

The SSO tariff delegation does not give up and does all in its power to move the negotiations forward. We still have to wait for the opinions of several other authorities. Currently, it is not yet possible to decide on the date of entry into force of this new long-awaited tariff.

### **III. Further Information**

#### **Press and Information Service SSO**

**Postgasse 19, Postfach, CH - 3000 Berne 8**

**Tel. ++ 41 31 310 20 80 fax ++ 41 31 310 20 82**

**E-mail : info@sso.ch / www.sso.ch**

*Dr Ph.Rusca*

*Delegate of the SSO for international affairs*

*3, rue Locarno, CH-1700 Fribourg*

*Tel. ++ 41 26 322 72 42 fax ++ 41 26 322 08 32*

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