



**ERO-Plenary Session**  
**25<sup>th</sup> September 2023, Sydney, Australia**  
**14h30 – 17h30**

International Convention Centre  
GA room (Ballroom 3)

***Minutes***

**A Welcome**

**A.1 ERO-President**

The ERO President opens the plenary session and greets all delegates and alternate delegates present. She is very glad to see so many persons here in Sydney. She excuses Taner Yücel who unfortunately cannot be present. Edoardo Cavallé will take over his duties for this PS.

**A.2 Welcome of guests**

A special welcome goes to Michele Aerden (former president of FDI) and Anna Lella (former president of ERO). Former president of ERO and FDI, Gerhard Seeberger, sent his excuses.

**B Standard agenda of the business meeting**

**B.1 Roll call**

Establishment of the quorum

The list of the registered delegates is shown on the screen. With 55 delegates present the quorum is established.

**B.2 Approval of the agenda**

There are no changes to the agenda, and it is therefore approved unanimously.

**B.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary session 2023 – Istanbul**

There have been no written comments or requests for amendments to the minutes of the spring meeting and no one requested the floor. The minutes of the plenary session 2023 in Istanbul are approved unanimously.

**B.4 Report of the Board**

ERO is now on **social media**! Paula Perlea shows the QR codes and links to our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn channels (see also on the ERO website). A small team engaged by ERO and supervised by Paula Perlea is taking care of the postings. To make these channels attractive, the cooperation of the NDAs is required.

She calls on the representatives of the national associations to give us their news to put on the social media channels! It is only as good as much there is on there.

At one of the past plenary sessions, it was noted that the ERO does not have an **ethics code**. In the meantime, Edoardo Cavallé has been working on this issue and is now proposing the establishment of a task team to draw up this code.

Provided the approval of the plenary session, this task team, consisting of a maximum of 8 experts, including at least 3 lawyers, would draw up this Code of Ethics. It would define the General Principles of ERO's action; describe the relationship rules between NDA and delegates and ERO and between Board and NDA; approve, disseminate, and update the code and monitor compliance with the EC, including conflicts of interest and relationships with sponsors.

The delegates approve unanimously the creation of this task team.

A first draft of this ethics code shall be presented in the Spring plenary session 2024 and the final vote and decision of entry into force will be in the Autumn plenary session 2024.

Simona Dianišková informs that ERO currently counts 34 member associations. She thanks the Turkish Dental Association for the organisation of the plenary session this spring. During this session the FDI Vision 2030 workshop was held. This has been very interesting, and the outcomes will have to be taken further into actions. She refers to Paula Perlea's report on social media and informs that over this year the website will also undergo a remake.

The president refers to the new working group "Oral Health and General Health". Mick Armstrong has agreed to be the chair of this WG and will report later. Simona Dianišková thanks for the reports of the member associations. This is always very useful information. It became evident that one of the biggest concerns is Corporate Dentistry. This led to the creation of a joint CED-ERO taskforce which will address this issue. Further she reports about the meeting with the FDI council.

## **B.5 Finances**

Although finances are normally presented in Spring, Oliver Zeyer gives a short report on the financial status of ERO. Money has been spent on the plenary session in spring and on the new website, which should be finished this autumn. A great part of the membership fees has been paid which puts ERO in a good financial standing. As mentioned, many times before, the board is willing to support projects of the working groups. Of course, applicants must submit a well-founded project with a budget. It has been noted with pleasure that the working groups have become more active after the break forced by the pandemic.

## **B.6 Working groups**

### **6.1 Ageing Population**

Jean-Philippe Haesler starts by thanking his WG members for the active work in the 2 meetings they held since the PS in Istanbul. He informs that there has been a first meeting with Colgate regarding the sponsoring of the "Toothbrushing App". They are willing to support the project, but there are many conditions tied to it; like graphics to be changed, maintenance and update, etc. (see presentation on the website ([Sydney 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org))). As a start Colgate proposes Switzerland to be the pilot country. To fulfil the requirements, professional support, financial and human resources would be needed. For the time being it has been decided to upload the existing material on the ERO website and to contact other potential sponsors. ERO shall in any case keep the

rights on the origin of the application. The group will further investigate if the app should be set up as a webapp, which would be more expensive and complicated. Jean-Philippe Haesler will keep the board and delegates informed. Translation of the app can be made by the different NDAs.

He closes his report with words of appreciation to Henk Donker and the KNMT which did a great job on creating this application.

## **6.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

On behalf of Gerhard Seeberger, who is not present, Oliver Zeyer reports on the activity of the WG. A new topic must be chosen. A meeting is planned in October. Some of the WG members are part of the new CED-ERO taskforce on Corporate Dentistry and they will contribute with their experience and knowledge to its work. There will be news from this taskforce as soon as possible, promises Simona Dianišková.

## **6.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities**

Mare Saag briefly explains the aim of the WG's current study on "the transition from a dental student to a practitioner". She reports on the recently published articles on "dental students' and graduates' practical skills" (see presentation on ERO Website: [Sydney 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org)) The conclusion from this is: The perception of practical skills of dental students and graduates among NDAs is very heterogeneous. Reasons for the perceived deficiencies should be further explored. The delegates also can take note that the article, that resulted from the previous project «Interprofessional education and collaborative practice» is being revised for submission. Mare Saag concludes her report by thanking the members of her WG and the NDA's that contributed to the results of the studies.

## **6.4 Integration**

The new chair, Ilshat Yuldashev, presents the results so far but also explains the priorities and goals for the future of the working group that are: unification of undergraduate education, according to education standards and educational programs; approximate equalization of requirements for postgraduate education in Eastern European countries and approximation to the European or world standard of certification and accreditation; ensuring the widespread implementation of preventive programs, educating the public, especially children of pre-preschool and school age, governmental preventive programs, responsible attitude to oral health (see presentation on the website: [Sydney 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org)).

Important will be, a close cooperation, using the results of investigations of the other working groups and of course the discussion of the next tasks within the ERO board, but also the NDAs of the newly independent Eastern states.

## **6.5 Continuing medical education in dentistry**

Hande Sar Sancakli refers to the latest survey which regards especially students and their requirements for their continuing professional development. She presents the results of this survey which are very interesting and can be seen in detail in the presentation uploaded on the ERO Website [Sydney 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org). She praises the good collaboration with the EDSA and the members of her WG. The outcome of the survey shall be resumed in a resolution statement.

## 6.6 Dental Team

Doniphan Hammer briefly reports on meeting of the WG which was held in Sydney the day before the PS. There are two – very active – new members in the group. The next project is the definition and creation of a survey on continuing education for dental assistants in ERO. He is already asking everyone to take part. The results would then be announced in the Autumn Plenary Session 2024.

## 6.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence

Roman Smucler presents a very detailed spreadsheet on the “definition of digital dentistry”, that can be seen on the ERO website ([Sydney 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org)). Regarding “artificial intelligence” which has gained popularity also in the field of dentistry, he points out to its development, the updates and the actual trends. The development in this field is so fast that it seemed necessary to create a position paper (recommendations) on the use of AI in dentistry. Roman Smucler presents it.

This paper was not brought to the attention of the delegates in advance. The question therefore arises as to whether it can be voted on at all now. However, the WG chair believes that it would be better not to wait. He is of the opinion that these rules must now be defined. The delegates can therefore first decide whether the vote should be taken now, which is confirmed with one abstention and no votes against. They then also vote on the position paper. This is approved with no votes against and one abstention.

The president appeals to those responsible for the WG to submit the papers to be voted on to the secretariat in advance.

## 6.8. Oral Health & General Health

This is the newest working group. Mick Armstrong was elected chairman. He informs that there has been one meeting so far. The group is now in the process of determining a topic. There will be another meeting soon and more information at the next plenary session.

## 6.9 Approval of the reports of the Working groups

The President asks for approval of the working groups' reports. This is given by the delegates without a dissenting vote.

At this point, Edoardo Cavallé reports on the meeting with the WG Chairs. This is always a very informative and valuable meeting. Active co-operation in the WG is required from everyone. Members who are not active and are absent from more than one meeting without a valid excuse will be removed from the list.

## B.7 Member countries – Platform for discussion

Edoardo Cavallé reverts to the presentation made by Taner Yuçel in the Spring PS: Corporate dentistry is one of the most pressing problems in all NDAs. As mentioned before besides the WG Liberal Dental Profession in Europe, there is also a Taskforce CED-ERO that deal with this topic.

Two points were raised by the Spanish delegation. Firstly, the issue of translations in the plenary session and secondly, a new law in Spain that gives cause for concern.

On the former, Edoardo Cavallé explains that, according to the Constitution, English, German and French are the official languages that are translated. If a delegation would like an additional language, this can be organised, but the NDA must bear the costs. Secondly, it is pointed out that Spain is currently the only country in the European Union that does not have any officially recognised specialty. They ask ERO to kindly

support the creation of dental specialities in Spain. Simona Dianišková asks the Spanish Delegation to submit a request by written.

### **B.8 FDI matters**

Some candidates for a position on the FDI Council/Committees are given the floor to present their candidature.

### **B.9 Next meetings**

- Plenary session 2024 (Spring) is planned to be held in Tel Aviv on 25/26 April
- Plenary session 2024 (Autumn) will be held during FDI Congress in Istanbul

### **B.10 Miscellaneous**

Nothing to report.

## **C Close of the meeting**

Simona Dianišková adjourns the meeting and thanks the delegates, her board members and the translators for their good work.

Dr. Simona Dianišková  
President

Monika Lang  
Minutes

President: Dr. Simona Dianišková (Slovakia) • President-Elect: Dr. Edoardo Cavallé (Italy) •  
Secretary General: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) • Treasurer: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Councilor: Prof. Paula Perlea  
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