



# Meeting European Regional Organization (ERO) – African Regional Organization (ARO)

29 June, 2026 – 19.30-20.30 h CET

## Meeting Notes

### Present:

ARO: Tarek Abbas (Vice-president)

ERO: Edoardo Cavallé (President), Paula Perlea (President-elect), Doris Seiz (Secretary General), Oleg Gladkov (Treasurer), Ariel Slutsky (Councilor), and Monika Lang (Administration).

### Purpose of the Meeting

To initiate discussions on future cooperation between the European Regional Organization (ERO) and the African Regional Organization (ARO) of FDI and to identify potential areas for collaboration.

### Proceedings

#### 1. Opening Remarks

Edoardo Cavallé welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of strengthening the relationship between ERO and ARO. He noted that a better understanding of each organization's structure, activities, and priorities would provide the basis for meaningful future cooperation. The ERO Annual Report, the ERO website ([www.erodental.org](http://www.erodental.org)), and the European Manual of Dental Practice ([European Manual – CED Council Of European Dentists](#)) were presented as key sources of information and will be shared with ARO.

#### 2. Introduction of Participants

The members of the ERO Board introduced themselves and outlined their respective responsibilities, including continuing education, quality management, communications, finance, international relations, and professional affairs. Tarek Abbas also introduced himself and provided an overview of ARO's current activities and priorities.

#### 3. Discussion on Potential Areas of Cooperation

The participants discussed a number of possible areas for collaboration, including:

- Continuing professional development through joint webinars and educational activities.
- Exchange of best practices between ERO and ARO.
- Collaboration in the fields of quality management and dental practice standards.
- Student and young dentist exchange programmes, including cooperation with the European Dental Students' Association (EDSA).
- Exchange of speakers for congresses and scientific meetings.
- Joint activities in connection with World Oral Health Day.
- Sharing ERO's experience with working groups and exploring the establishment of similar structures within ARO.
- Development of Memoranda of Understanding to facilitate cooperation between European and African dental schools and universities.

Doris Seiz highlighted the value of professional observerships and exchange programmes as opportunities for mutual learning. Oleg Gladkov underlined the importance of international lecturer exchanges and continuing education.

Tarek Abbas expressed ARO's strong interest in developing a close partnership with ERO and confirmed his commitment to advancing the proposed initiatives. He also informed the participants that he is expected to assume the ARO Presidency in the coming months.

#### **4. Future Cooperation**

The participants agreed that the next stage of the cooperation should focus on identifying concrete joint projects and developing practical implementation plans. A follow-up meeting will be held during the forthcoming meeting in Prague.

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Share the ERO Annual Report and relevant background documents with ARO.	Monika Lang
Organize a follow-up ERO–ARO meeting in Prague.	Monika Lang
Inform ARO Board members of the proposed cooperation initiatives.	Tarek Abbas
Prepare working papers/drafts for the Prague meeting, outlining possible areas of cooperation.	ERO and ARO
Share information about existing sisterhood agreements between Bulgarian Dental Association and other countries as a model for cooperation	Oleg Gladkov
Consider extending the ERO student essay award program to include African students.	Paula Perlea

#### **Conclusions**

The meeting confirmed the mutual interest of ERO and ARO in establishing a structured and sustainable partnership. Both organizations agreed to strengthen communication, exchange expertise, and develop joint initiatives in education, professional development, and organizational cooperation. The meeting in Prague will provide the opportunity to review concrete proposals and determine the next steps for implementation.