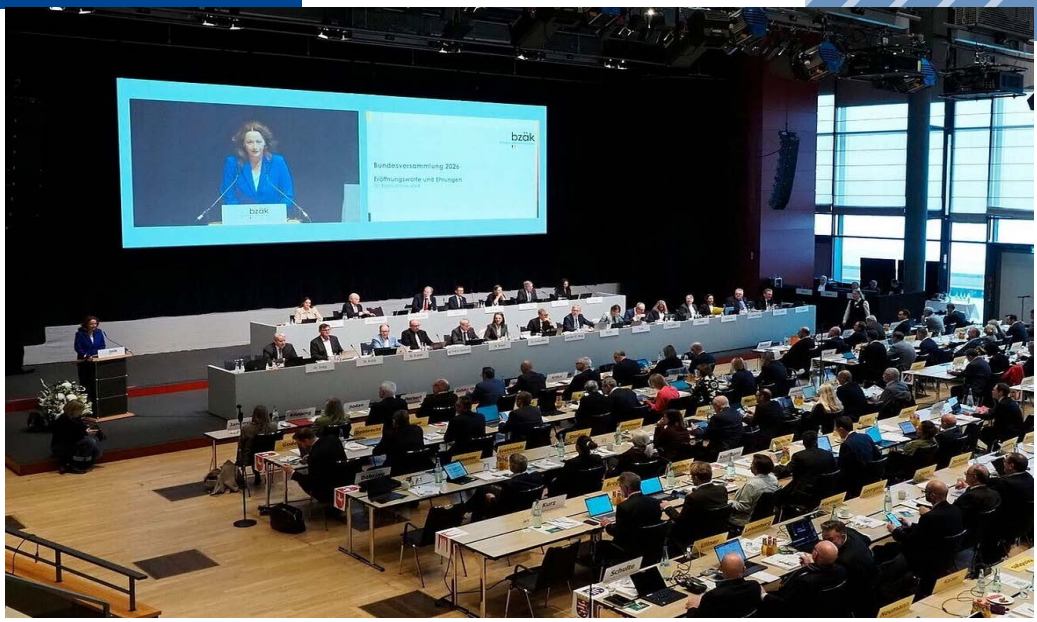
ERO NEWS



German Dental Days 2026

EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF THE FEDERATION DENTAIRE INTERNATIONALE FDI

6-7 NOVEMBER
2026

Prevention takes centre stage at German Dental Days 2026

Delegates called for lasting funding for preventive dental care, clear public health goals for a sugar levy and continued access to fluoride products.





The Federal Assembly of the German Dental Association (Bundeszahnärztekammer, BZÄK) unanimously called on Germany's federal government and parliament to make prevention a guiding principle of health policy. Meeting in Dresden on 6–7 November, delegates urged policymakers to assess healthcare reforms by how well they reduce preventable illness, extend healthy life and support the long-term financial sustainability of care.



From left to right: BZÄK President Dr. Romy Ermler, FDI President Assist. Prof. Dr. Nikolai Sharkov, ERO-FDI President-Elect Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea, BZÄK Vice-President Dr. Doris Seiz

BZÄK President Dr. Romy Ermler argued that decisions about how Germany funds healthcare should consider how much illness preventive services can avert. Saxony's State Minister Petra Köpping, FDI World Dental Federation President Assist. Prof. Dr. Nikolai Sharkov and Saxony Dental Chamber President Dr. Thomas Breyer addressed delegates at the opening.

The European Regional Organisation of the FDI World Dental Federation (ERO-FDI) was represented at the Assembly by President-Elect Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea and Secretary General Dr. Doris Seiz.

The Assembly also adopted resolutions on sugar taxation, sodium fluoride, the recognition of professional qualifications, digital identities for dentists, crisis preparedness and the administrative requirements facing dental practices.

Funding prevention and protecting access

Preventive care across the life course
Delegates called for preventive services to be exempt from budget caps and singled out prevention-oriented periodontal care for stable funding based on patient need. They urged Germany's federal and state authorities to integrate oral health into their prevention, diabetes, cardiovascular and long-term care strategies, and to make it easier for dental, medical and nursing teams to coordinate care.

The resolution calls for accessible health information and practical education, including toothbrushing in educational and childcare settings. It gives particular attention to children and adolescents, people who need long-term care and people with disabilities. The Sixth German Oral Health Study provides context. It found that 77.6% of 12-year-olds were caries-free, with a greater burden of disease among children from families with lower educational attainment.



Saxony's State Minister Petra Köpping opens the Assembly with a welcome address. Photo © BZÄK / Tobias Koch

A sugar levy to fund prevention

Delegates asked the federal government to revise its proposed sugar levy and introduce it promptly. They called for simple administration and for an amount equal to the revenue raised to go towards preventive health programmes.
In her political report, Ermler advocated a levy on manufacturers of products high in sugar and a fund to support health promotion and health literacy.

Access to fluoride products

The Assembly asked the European Chemicals Agency and the European Commission to account for sodium fluoride's role in preventing tooth decay during its regulatory assessment. Delegates GERMAN DENTAL DAYS 2026 3 urged both bodies to protect access to effective fluoride-containing oral care products, including toothpaste, and to consider how sodium fluoride is used in dental prevention.

Patient safety and continuity of dental care

Recognition of professional qualifications



International guests at the Federal Assembly of the BZÄK

The Assembly asked the European Commission to maintain professional standards and protect patient safety as it updates EU rules on the recognition of qualifications. For qualifications earned outside the EU, delegates called for recognition decisions to remain with member states. Within Germany, they proposed a nationwide register for recognition procedures and called for a C1 language certificate before admission to the professional language examination.

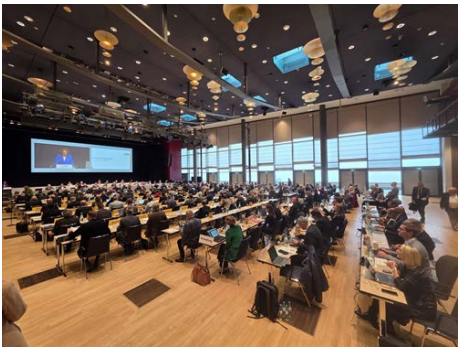
Digital identities and patient information

Delegates proposed removing the statutory deadline for issuing digital identities to dentists and letting gematik's shareholders set the rollout date. Gematik coordinates Germany's digital health infrastructure. Other resolutions addressed the confidentiality of the dentist–patient relationship and called for safeguards against identifying individual dentists from data held by Germany's health research data centre.

Preparing dental services for emergencies

The Assembly called for national emergency planning to explicitly include outpatient dental services. Delegates asked lawmakers to clarify responsibilities across the health system, civil protection and disaster response, involve the bodies that represent and regulate the dental GERMAN DENTAL DAYS 2026 4 profession in planning, and provide public funding for preparedness. The BZÄK also published a practical crisis-management guide for dental practices.

Dental practice regulation and professional independence



Reducing administrative work in practices

Delegates called on the German government to remove external initial and repeat validation requirements for small devices such as washer-disinfectors and autoclaves. The resolution cited existing manufacturer checks, equipment servicing and in-practice monitoring of instrument reprocessing. BZÄK Vice-President Dr. Doris Seiz argued that changes to hygiene requirements should be grounded in evidence and give practice teams more time for patient care.

Dental fees and investor influence

The Assembly reiterated its support for a standalone dental fee schedule, known in Germany as the GOZ. Delegates called for an immediate adjustment to the point value that underlies the schedule and for regular reviews thereafter. In a separate resolution, the Assembly called for safeguards to protect dentists' clinical independence from the influence of financial investors.

Recognition and publications

The BZÄK awarded the German dental profession's Gold Badge of Honour to Jürgen Herbert, honorary president of the Brandenburg Dental Chamber, and Prof Dr. Helge Sodan of the German Institute for Health Law. The association also released its 2025–2026 statistical yearbook, which covers dental practice, employment, the sector's economic contribution and the population's oral health.



On behalf of ERO Board:
Prof. Dr. Paula Perlea, President-Elect
Dr. Doris Seiz, Secretary General