

In April, FDI's leadership convened in Geneva to advance our mission of working closely with members to improve oral health worldwide. The FDI European Regional Organization also held its annual meeting, where key regional priorities were discussed.



FDI Mid-Year Meeting – aligning priorities and advancing progress

From 7–11 April, FDI held its Mid-Year Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, bringing together leadership to align on priorities and shape our future workplan.

This was a highly substantive week, reflecting the breadth of activity required to move FDI forward. In addition to Council and Committee meetings, dedicated sessions were held on the budget, including detailed financial planning and resource allocation discussions. Council also met with Committee Chairs to ensure alignment across governance structures and to strengthen coordination of ongoing initiatives. Parallel to this, FDI staff provided important updates on operational priorities, including progress on the opening of the new office and the delivery of core programmes.

These meetings are far from symbolic: They are where strategic direction is translated into operational progress. The collective work undertaken across governance and staff structures ensures that FDI's priorities are implemented effectively and remain closely aligned with members' expectations.

A central moment of the week was the Plenary Session, which focused on two key topics. The first addressed *Vision 2030*, including discussion of the mid-term survey results. These provided valuable insights into members' perspectives and helped identify priority areas where further alignment and action are needed as we approach 2030. The second topic focused on proxy voting. Constructive discussions took place, and work on this important governance matter is ongoing.

What continues to stand out is the strength and engagement of this leadership community. The level of commitment, expertise, and willingness to contribute across all groups remains a strong foundation for FDI's continued progress.

There is a significant body of work to bring forward to the General Assembly, including outcomes, proposals, and key updates. I look forward to presenting these to members at the World Dental Parliament in Prague.



In this photo: FDI Council



FDI European Regional Organization annual meeting in Sofia

It was a pleasure to participate in the FDI European Regional Organization (ERO) Annual Meeting held in my home city of Sofia, Bulgaria. Bringing the region's dental associations

together in this way remains essential to align on shared priorities and to learn from one another.

Taking place just ahead of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, the meeting provided a timely opportunity to reflect on the commitments made in the recently adopted Political Declaration on noncommunicable diseases and mental health. Members were encouraged to continue engaging with their ministries of health to help ensure these commitments are upheld and translated into action.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to share key updates on FDI's ongoing work, helping to strengthen alignment across the region.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Sofia Regional Body of Bulgarian Dental Association for the perfect organization of the event and to all ERO FDI members for their continued commitment and dedication.



In this photo: From right to left: Ms Dakova - Deputy Mayer, Dr Gribnev - Deputy Minister of health, Dr Duigu Ilhan - Liaison Councilor ERO FDI, Mr Enzo Bondioni - FDI Executive Director, Asst. Prof. Dr Nikolai Sharkov - FDI President

Upcoming working visits:

30th Balkan Stomatological Society (BaSS) Congress – Thessaloniki, Greece, 7–9 May –
The President will attend the 30th anniversary of the BaSS Congress.

47th Asia Pacific Dental Congress (APDC) – Hanoi, Vietnam, 11–14 May – The President will participate in the 47th APDC to strengthen ties with members in the region.

79th World Health Assembly – Geneva, Switzerland, 18–23 May – The President will participate in the WHA79 as part of FDI's delegation to ensure oral health remains a public health priority.

Tanzania Dental Expo 2026 – Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 28–30 May – The President will attend the Tanzania Dental Expo 2026 – an important engagement with FDI members in the African region.