



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



The ERO Newsletter March 2009 – No.6

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Dentists,

The Plenary Session in Rome is approaching fast. We hope that many of you will attend this meeting, as the Italian Organisation Committee has spared no efforts to make the event a great success. We thank them for their work and commitment.

You will find in this Newsletter an update on the various activities of the ERO which will be debated at our next Plenary session.

The current financial crises has spared no one, and the discussions we will hold during our plenary can only be beneficial to each and every one of us for the solutions they are sure to bring.

I look forward to seeing you all soon in Rome.
The ERO President,

Dr Patrick HESCOT

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE ERO

THE ERO WORKING GROUPS

Each Working group is supervised by one of the Board members:
Bartolomeo GRIFFA – *Parity and The Dental Team*
Philippe RUSCA – *Liberal Dental Practice in Europe and Women in Dentistry*
Gerhard SEEBERGER – *Quality and Prevention*
Alex MERSEL – *Education*
Vladimir SADOVSKI – *Enlargement*

Prevention

Group chaired by Prof. Denis Bourgeois.

First European Conference on Oral Cancer

The Conference, organised by the ERO with the financial support of the French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and the French Ministry of Health, will be held in Paris on 12th June 2009. The programme of the Conference will be presented during the Plenary Session in Rome.

You will shortly receive a preliminary questionnaire that will help us assess the situation with regards to Oral Cancer in each of the ERO member countries.

World Oral Health Day – 12th September 2009

The FDI has chosen Oral Cancer as this year's topic. More information will be provided during the Plenary Session in Rome

EGOHID – European Oral Health Indicators Development project

The creation of a European Oral Health Observatory is planned in relation to the EGOHID project. The Observatory project will be presented and detailed at the Plenary Session in Rome.

Education

Group chaired by Prof. Alex Mersel.

The group has defined two main work themes:

1. a platform of courses and congresses ;
 2. a pilot project to introduce e-learning courses, in which Slovakia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania and Georgia will take part.
- Smile-On will propose a number of courses for this purpose.

The first e-learning programme will be launched on 18th March 2009 in Romania during the International Dental Congress.

Parity

Group chaired by Dr Anna Lella.

Since our last meeting in Istanbul, the group has given a new direction to its work, and will be exploring the problems that dentistry faces in Europe, more particularly in terms of access to oral health care and the allocation of public funds.

One of the group's future tasks will be to compare how average dental practices work in the new ERO Member countries (types of practice, number of dentists in a practice, gender/age of dentists, etc.).

Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Group chaired by Dr Voicu David

The absence for quite a while now of Voicu David at the head of the group makes it necessary to set up a new Working Group, with new objectives that will be defined in Rome.

Enlargement

Group chaired by Dr Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

The group has taken on the mission of assisting the new ERO member countries from Eastern Europe in their relations with their governments.

Visits to these countries are scheduled to meet with their health authorities and national dental associations in order to develop projects to improve their populations' oral health and their dentists' working conditions.

Women in Dentistry

Group chaired by Dr Vesna Barac-Furtinger.

The group will work on the priority issue chosen in Stockholm: "The impact of feminisation on dentistry". Vesna Barac-Furtinger will present a report during the Plenary Session in Rome.

Quality

Group chaired by Dr Gerhard Seeberger.

A study is underway, based on the questionnaire that was presented in Stockholm.

The result will be an informative document rather than a comparative analysis, and will be presented at the ERO Plenary Session in Singapore.

The Dental Team

Group chaired by Dr Edoardo Cavallé

The group is currently focusing on the profile of dental auxiliaries (dental hygienists, dental chairside assistants, dental technicians and possibly denturists).

The possibility will be considered of establishing a close collaboration with the FDI, and particularly with the FDI Oral Health Workforce Task Team.

ERO PLENARY SESSIONS

Plenary Session in Rome – April 2009

The next Plenary Session will be held from 16th until 18th April 2009 in Rome, Italy.

The meetings will take place in the Spazio Etoile Centre, and delegate accommodation will be provided by the Visconti Palace Hotel, the ERO headquarters for the duration of the event.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

- Thursday 16th April:
 - morning: Board meeting
 - afternoon: Working groups meetings
- Friday 17th April: Plenary Session
- Saturday 18th April: Scientific session on fluorides organised by the Working group on Prevention.

The programme of the Friday Plenary Session and of the Saturday morning Scientific session has been sent out to all delegates.

We hope to see you all at this event.

ERO 2010 Plenary Session

Armenia and Georgia have both submitted their candidature for this meeting.

PAN-EUROPEAN DENTAL CONGRESS

The third Pan-European Congress, organised under the aegis of the ERO, will take place in Kiev, Ukraine, from 9th until 11th December 2009.

Poland has submitted a candidature to host the 2010 Pan-European Dental Congress.

FDI

In agreement with the Board, the ERO President addressed a letter to the ERO President Burton Conrod, asking to be enlightened as to the financial situation of the FDI following the global financial crisis, and to the various actions planned in consequence.

A copy of the letter is provided on the last page of this Newsletter, and the issue will be discussed during the ERO Plenary Session in Rome.

Please note that the FDI Executive Director, David Alexander, and the two candidates running for the position of FDI President-elect in the next FDI elections, Orlando Monteiro da Silva and David Thomson, will be attending our meeting.

The ERO Calendar

[18-21 March 2009](#): International Dental Congress – Romania

[16-18 April 2009](#): ERO Plenary Session – Rome

[29-30 May 2009](#) : 20th Anniversary of the Re-establishment of the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dental Practitioners – Poland

[12 June 2009](#): First European Conference on Oral Cancer – Paris

[2-5 September 2009](#) : FDI Annual World Dental Congress (AWDC) - Singapour

[12 September 2009](#) : World Oral Health Day

[9-11 December 2009](#) : 3rd Pan-European Dental Congress - Kiev (Ukraine)

[2010](#): FDI AWDC – Salvador de Bahia, Brazil

The ERO Board

President: Dr Patrick HESCOT

President-Elect: Dr Gerhard SEEBERGER

General Secretary: Dr Philippe RUSCA

Board Members: Drs Bartolomeo GRIFFA & Vladimir SADOVSKI

Scientific Advisor: Prof. Alex MERSEL

Copy of the letter from the ERO to Burton Conrod

Dr Burton Conrod
FDI President

29th January 2009

Dear President, dear Friend,

At its last meeting on 19th January 2009, the ERO Board listened with great attention to our Executive Director David Alexander, who explained that the FDI had not been spared by the current financial crisis, mainly for two reasons: one, because the FDI reserves were in pounds sterling and two, because they had not been invested in the most judicious manner.

Mr. Alexander also informed us that in order to reduce this year's FDI budget by €300.000, you had decided to take drastic measures, including to cancel the February Committee meetings and to reduce the mid-year Council meeting by one day, bringing it down from three days to two.

We would like to express our reactions to these decisions, as we believe that the FDI should behave as a responsible company, particularly with regards to its members, the national dental associations and the regional dental organisations.

That is why we would like the FDI, during its next Council meeting and under your supervision as President, to:

1. draw up a detailed report on the financial situation of the Federation
2. develop a budget restriction plan, more specifically to enable the FDI to rebuild its reserves
3. propose a recovery plan to improve the organisation's efficiency.

It seems highly regrettable that the members elected by the General Assembly should be the ones to suffer –through the cancellation of the Committee meetings particularly– from the current financial difficulties of the FDI. We understand that these cancelled meetings amount to an economy of 3 to 5% for the FDI, and we believe it would be much wiser to economise on other items, for example by cancelling the publication of the Atlas, which we have gathered is budgeted at €100.000.

The current crisis should not be an excuse to slow down activity but, on the contrary, an opportunity to enhance the Federation's image.

As you are well aware, the elected members of the FDI are the driving force behind the organisation. Thus cancelling the Committee meetings is in total contradiction with the Governance principles of the Federation, which should lean first and foremost on the motive power provided by the national dental associations.

Moreover, we believe it is of the utmost importance to overhaul the Council's and Committees' working methods, as previously discussed, in order for the elected members to be more involved in the ongoing work, before, during, and after the meetings.

We ask you to consider our comments and requests and assure you of our full support to help you in this task of reorganising the FDI.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Patrick HESCOT ERO-FDI President