1964 - 2014
ERO: Fifty years

The European Regional Organization of the FDI World Dental Federation is a non-profit association established in accordance with the FDI Constitution, registered in the Swiss Canton of Geneva. It associates FDI member organizations from the European Area.
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Dear Colleagues

The ERO is fifty years old and it is time to celebrate this event. For 50 years colleagues have worked intensively to promote oral health and defend our professional interests. Of course our history is strongly related to the FDI, which celebrated its first century in 2000 in Paris. It seems that Paris is the place to highlight jubilees. This brochure is published to summarize the history of the ERO, to show the huge evolution since its beginnings and to remind us of the colleagues who have worked for us. In the historic part you can see that our evolution is intimately correlated with the development of the EU.

Since the fall of the iron curtain in 1989 our regional organization has dramatically changed and now we are very proud and satisfied that the Eastern European countries have joined the ERO and are regular members.

More than ever we presently feel a dramatic change in dental practice. Globalization also has implications in our daily dental life. The traditional “one man practice” seems to belong to the past, advertising is changing our way of interacting with our patients, wild liberalisation without ethical guidelines brings a lot of new problems, the free moving of workforces in dentistry leads to conflicting situations. The shift “patient to client” represents a pioneering challenge. We have to face all these aspects and defend more than ever the values of our profession.

Philippe Rusca,
ERO president, January 2014
ERO objectives

The ERO aims at promoting the concept of dentistry as an independent profession based on the principle of freedom of choice in the relationship between the dentist and the patient.

The ERO works under the supervision and mission of FDI, developing policies, reports and resolutions in order to influence the activities of FDI.

The ERO supports its member organizations by providing the best possible oral and general health to patients.

The ERO promotes and supports European and national health policies that respect ethical principles and professional standards.

The ERO resolutions, expressing the views of European dentists, are valuable documents serving as background and supportive papers for national dental organizations in their contacts with local authorities.

ERO early days

The beginnings of the ERO date back to 1955 when the Special Commission for European Cooperation was established in response to the request of some European member associations of the FDI to have a common body to defend their interests and views and to foster their cooperation and links. The Commission took up its activities in 1956 and focused in particular on matters related to social security and illegal dental practice.

In 1958, the Commission was renamed as the Regional Commission for Europe and its activities were orientated primarily towards the development of the necessary conditions of a common health policy of the member countries of the European Economic

Regional Organisation for Europe of the FDI

European Regional Organisation of the FDI
Community (EEC) and the coordination of the dental curricula of the six member countries at that time. However, difficulties concerning dental studies in Italy led to the establishment of a Dental Liaison Committee (DLC) charged in particular with the negotiations with the EEC authorities in Brussels in this respect and the development of the directives on recognition of qualifications of dentists.

In 1962, a permanent Secretariat of the Regional Commission was established in Cologne in Germany at the headquarters of the German Dental Association (Bundesverband der Deutschen Zahnärzte). Its successor, the Bundeszahnärztekammer took over the task of running and financing the Secretariat.

In 1964 the FDI General Assembly adopted a resolution setting up Regional Organisations within the FDI. Accordingly, in January 1965 the Regional Organisation for Europe of the FDI, later renamed “European Regional Organisation of the FDI (ERO)”, was effectively established. It was the first regional organisation of the FDI and thus served as a model for the other regional organisations to be created later in Latin America, the Asian-Pacific Region and more recently in Africa and North America.

**ERO development**

The political change in Europe and the fall of the Iron Curtain also had a great impact on the functioning of the ERO. Dental organisations from Central and Eastern Europe applied for membership and the ERO quickly expanded both in terms of membership as well as in the scope of its activities.

The new member associations requested assistance in establishing their own dental care systems and their organisational structures, sometimes within national medical organizations. Assistance was also sought in adjusting and modifying national dental curricula and examinations. The ERO provided experts for specific professional topics who co-operated with new member organizations – visiting these countries and giving valuable advice. In addition some ERO associations from Western Europe gave their direct assistance within a mutual partnership or within the framework of specific cooperation agreements.
ERO membership

In 1965 - its first official year - the ERO had 12 member associations. The number of members has increased continually. In 1966 the dental organization from Israel was admitted – the first country beyond the physiographic Europe.

Following the fall of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe and the opening of Europe towards the East in 1989 organizations from most of the former Communist countries also gradually joined the ERO, incl. the former USSR republics from Caucasus and Central Asia (WHO European Region).

Currently the ERO counts member associations from 37 countries and has set as a goal to help dental associations from all 53 European countries (WHO European Region) to join the ERO.

ERO governance

Before 1998, the stakeholders of the ERO formed its Executive Body, which was composed of 3 officers – President, Vice-president and Secretary General. It developed a Constitution following the FDI-Statutes and a Standing Order for the routine work and the running of meetings. This Constitution was modified and adjusted several times.

A far-reaching reform was completed in 1998 which had been prepared by a working group on the ERO-Constitution and which led to the adoption of a new Constitution which was more in line with the FDI-Statutes than the former one. The Standing Order was replaced by the Rules of Procedure.

The most significant constitutional innovation was the establishment of a Board consisting of five members: President, President-Elect (following the FDI model), Secretary General and two Board members (in particular responsible for the working groups). Secretary General and Board members are re-eligible in their functions.

This new enlarged Board was first elected in 1998. The next elections took place in 2001. The President-elect took over the presidency and all other Board members were new in their functions.

The ERO is financed only by fees of the member associations. A budget is prepared annually and the effective expenses are
assessed to the member associations on the basis of the number of their members.

The Plenary Session – the ERO’s supreme authority composed of delegates of all member organizations – gathers twice a year. According to its Constitution, the ERO holds at least one plenary session per year in one of the member countries (traditionally in April). Another Plenary Session takes place within the FDI World Dental Parliament and Annual World Dental Congress.

**ERO office**

Since December 16th 2010 the ERO’s official headquarters are, at the FDI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The ERO-Secretariat, initially located in Germany, is located in Bern, Switzerland since 2004 and hosted by the Swiss Dental Association SSO.

**ERO activities**

The ERO sticks to its mission of being a forum for information and experience exchange and a means for distributing papers on these topics as well as of giving support to the new countries in their negotiations with public authorities.

The ERO publishes presidential letters (formerly circular letters) 3 to 4 times per year.

The ERO has a website with comprehensive information about the organization (documents, contact details of Board members and member organizations, Working Groups etc.): www.erodental.org
ERO resolutions

Since 1982 at the request of many member organizations the ERO and in particular its working groups have developed and adopted several resolutions and statements on key issues of national and European interest and concern.

These documents are meant to serve as a background and as supportive papers for member associations and countries in potential controversies and negotiations with national health and governmental authorities. In particular they are of help for Central and Eastern European countries in their endeavours to reform their dental care systems.

ERO Working Groups

Due to the manifold and great variety of topics of general interest, it was considered necessary to establish working groups within the ERO to study specific matters in detail and to report to the plenum at the meetings.

Working Groups are set up and composed of experts nominated by the Plenary Session. Working Groups consider and examine in detail matters of particular importance to the dental profession, gather relevant information and elaborate drafts of ERO resolutions and other documents. Following completion of their mandate, Working Groups either focus on other issues or are dissolved.

Much of ERO work is carried out by the Working Groups in the period between the plenary sessions – members of the Working Groups who are colleagues from ERO member associations work on voluntary basis without remuneration.

There are currently 7 ERO Working Groups:
1. Prevention
2. Relation between dental practitioners and universities
3. Liberal Dental Practice in Europe
4. Integration
5. Dental Team
6. Continuing Medical Education
7. Quality
In the past a number of other Working Groups were set up which having completed their mandate either switched their attention to other issues or were dissolved. For example, the following Working Groups: WG Demography, WG Dentists, WG Telematics, WG Entry, WG for Constitutional Revision, WG Parity, WG Women in Dentistry.

The role and tasks of Regional Organisations of the FDI have been discussed over the past and are still subject to changes.

The European Regional Organisation of the FDI associates National Dental Organizations from the entire European geographic area as defined by the WHO.

Thus the area of the ERO’s activities reaches far beyond Western Europe, the European Union or the European Economic Area.

Consequently, as there are significant differences between the European regions and countries represented in the ERO, the scope of the ERO’s activities and goals to be achieved is large enough for the next 50 years of successful work.

1986 Munich / H. Zedelmaier, P. Schulz, A. Schneider, G. Sauter, H. Sebastian, B. Bergmann-Krauss-Trump


1992 Herzliya / ERO board and FDI invitees.

1992 Herzliya / S. Hanson, A. Schneider, J. Bjørnvad, M. Bader.

1992 Herzliya / New ERO board: S. Hanson, A. Schneider, J. Bjørnvad.
1997 Istanbul / common meeting ERO-DLC C. Genin, C. Gersching, J. Reignault, J. Monnot, S. Hanson, H. Schneider-Chaloux
1998 Reykjavik / ERO board with guests.

1998 Reykjavik / old and new Presidents.

2005 Athens / S. Dianiskova, P. Hescot, J. Font Buxó, Ph. Rusca and M. Lang (secretary)
2002 Dubrovnik / M. Bader, A. Rodica
2007 Moscow / new ERO board: B. Griffa, Ph. Rusca, P. Hescot, M. Lang, G. Seeberger, V. Sadovski
2008 Istanbul / Bosphoruscruise: P. Hescot, T. Yucel, Ph. Rusca
2009 Rome / ERO family.
2010 Yerevan / Gala dinner.

2010 Yerevan / German delegation.

2011 Sofia / Plenary session.
2012 Prag / Ladies’ discussion.

2012 Prag / Plenary session.
2013 Potsdam / Plenary session.

1. Main (spring) meeting venues of the European Regional Organisation (ERO) of the FDI

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>Copenhagen</td>
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2. **List of FDI Dental Parliaments and AWDC in Europe since 1964**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Tel Aviv, Israel</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>Athens, Greece</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
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<td>Paris, France</td>
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<td>Hamburg, Germany</td>
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<td>2013</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Next FDI Dental Parliaments and AWDC in Europe: 2016 Poznań, Poland
annex

3. ERO-Stakeholders - Executive and Board (1956 - 2013)

Day-to-day management of ERO is the responsibility of the Board – President, President-Elect, Secretary General and 2 Board members (one as Treasurer) elected for 3 years at the Plenary Session.

**1956**
Dr. E. Müller (Germany)
Dr. Stork (Netherlands)

**1962**
Dr. H. Freihofer (Switzerland)
Dr. W. Brenner (Austria)
Dr. R. Braun (Germany)

**1971**
Dr. T. Aggeryd (Schweden)
Dr. R. Allen (U.K.)
Dr. J. Jardiné (France)

**1980**
Dr. R. Allen (U.K.)
Dr. H. Zedelmaier (Germany)
Dr. J. Jardiné (France)

**1982**
Dr. R. Allen (U.K.)
Dr. H. Zedelmaier (Germany)
Dr. H. Erni (Switzerland)

**1986**
Dr. J. Monnot (France)
Dr. E. Karlsen (Norway)
Dr. H. Erni (Switzerland)

**1992**
ZA A. Schneider (Germany)
Dr. St. Hanson (Belgium)
Dr. J. Bjernvad (Denmark)

**1996/97**
ZA A. Schneider (Germany)
Dr. St. Hanson (Belgium)
Dr. E. Cimbura (Czech Republic)

**1998**
ZA A. Schneider (Germany)
Dr. E. Cimbura (Czech Republic)

**Board**
President,
President-elect,
Secretary General,
2 members

**1998 – 2001**
Dr. P. Müller-Boschung (Switzerland)
Dr. E. Schmølker (Denmark)
Dr. E. Cimbura (Czech Republic)
Dr. J. Reignault (France)
Dr. E. Filippi (Italy)

**2001 – 2004**
Dr. E. Schmølker (Denmark)
Dr. J. Font-Buxó (Spain)
Dr. Rodica Aldica (Romania)
Dr. P. Hescot (France)
Dr. A. Mersel (Israel)

**2004 – 2007**
Dr. J. Font-Buxo (Spain)
Dr. P. Hescot (France)
Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland)
Dr. S. Dianeskiova (Slovakia)
Dr. B. Yavru-Sakkuk (Armenia)

**2007 – 2010**
Dr. P. Hescot (France)
Dr. G. Seeberger (Italy)
Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland)
Dr. B. Griffa (Italy)
Dr. V. Sadovski (Russia)

**2010 – 2013**
Dr. G. Seeberger (Italy)
Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland)
Dr. A. Lella (Poland)
Dr. M. Frank (Germany)
Dr. B. Yavru-Sakkuk (Armenia)

**2013 – 2016**
Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland)
Dr. A. Lella (Poland)
Dr. H. Schrangl (Austria)
Dr. M. Frank (Germany)
Dr. T. Yücel (Turkey)
4. Presidents

1956 – 1962  Dr. E. Müller (Germany)
1962 – 1971  Dr. H. Freihofer (Switzerland)
1971 – 1980  Dr. T. Aggeryd (Sweden)
1980 – 1986  Dr. R. Allen (U.K.)
1986 – 1992  Dr. J. Monnot (France)
1992 – 1998  ZA A. Schneider (Germany)
1998 – 2001  Dr. P. Müller-Boschung (Switzerland)
2001 – 2004  Dr. E. Schmølker (Denmark)
2004 - 2007  Dr. J. Font-Buxo (Spain)
2007 - 2010  Dr. P. Hescot (France)
2010 – 2013  Dr. G. Seeberger (Italy)
2013 -      Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland)

Acknowledgments
The ERO thanks all the contributors to the edition of this document, particularly Marion Bader and Anna Lella.
**ERO members**

Armenian Dental Association
Österreichische Zahnärztekammer
Azerbaijan Stomatological Association
Verbond der Vlaamse Tandartsen
Chambres Syndicales Dentaires Belgium
Dental Chamber of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgarian Dental Association
Croatian Dental Chamber
Croatian Dental Society
Cyprus Dental Association
Czech Dental Chamber
Danish Dental Association
Ass.of Public Health Dentists Denmark
Estonian Dental Association
Association Dentaire Francaise
Bundeszahnärztekammer
Georgian Stomatological Association
Hellenic Dental Association
Stomatological Society of Greece
Icelandic Dental Association
The Israeli Dental Association
Associazione Nazionale Dentisti Italiani
Associazione Italiana Odontoiatri
Kazakhstan Stomatological Association

Stomatological Association of the Kyrgyz Rep.
Latvian Dental Association
Association des Médecins-Dentistes du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg
Dental Association of Malta
Moldavian Association of Stomatologists
Dutch Dental Association
Polish Chamber of Physicians+Dentists
Polish Dental Society
OMD - Ordem dos Medicos Dentistas
Sociedade Portuguesa de Estomatologia e Medicina Dentária
Romanian Dental Ass.of Priv.Pract.
Romanian Society of Stomatology
Russian Dental Association
Slovak Chamber of Dentists
Slovenian Dental Association
Consejo Gen. Colegios de Odontologos
Schweiz. Zahnärzte-Gesellschaft (SSO)
Turkish Dental Association
British Dental Association
Ukrainian Dental Association
Uzbekistan Dental Association
Freier Verband Deutscher Zahnärzte
European Society of Dental Ergonomics