



ERO-Plenary Session 2/3 May 2025, Hotel Intercontinental, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Friday, 02.05.2025
Saturday, 03.05.2025**

**13.30 h - 17.30 h
09.00 h - 12.30 h**

Presentations are available on the ERO Website: [Almaty 2025 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#)

M I N U T E S

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

Simona Dianiskova opens the plenary session and thanks the local organizers and the presidents of the local NDAs for being hosts of this session and welcoming us in the beautiful city of Almaty.

A.2 Welcome of guests

The president welcomes the Guests T.C. Wong (Former President of FDI), Enzo Bondioni (CEO FDI), Nick Sharkov (President-elect FDI), Anna Lella (Former President ERO and Vice-President CED), Duygu Ilhan (Liaison Officer FDI-ERO), the delegation from Uzbekistan Dental Association and all delegates

Excuses were received from the national associations (Netherlands and Italy (AIO), as well as Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg (President CED), ERO Past-Presidents Philippe Rusca, Michael Frank and Gerhard Seeberger (also Former FDI President), President and General Secretariat of the Swiss Dental Association and Enrico Lai (ERO Internal Auditor), the representative of EDSA and the Delegation from the Republic of Srpska and Bosnia&Herzegovina.

A.3 Greetings of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Alnazarova Akmaral Sharipbayevna conveyed her greetings to all participants via a video message. In her address, she emphasized the crucial role of oral health within the broader framework of public health and underscored its significance at the highest levels of health policy and leadership. She acknowledged the valuable work being done by dental professionals and international organizations to advance oral health globally. Finally, she extended her best wishes for a successful and productive conference and hoped that all participants would enjoy their time and experience the hospitality of Kazakhstan.

A.4 Greetings of the President-elect of FDI

Nikolai Sharkov extends his greetings to all attendees. On behalf of the absent FDI President, Greg Chadwick, he warmly welcomes the assembly. He expresses his happiness to be here and looks forward to continued strong collaboration with the regional organizations. Nikolai Sharkov reflects on the pleasure of having worked with many present here over the years, emphasizing that much can be achieved through collective spirit and collaboration. He acknowledges the numerous challenges ahead and highlights ongoing discussions with the WHO regarding the Global Oral Health Action Plan. At both national and international levels, significant progress has been made within the global oral health agenda, driven by knowledge exchange, shared expertise, and continuous commitment. He looks forward to seeing all delegates present at the World Dental Congress in Shanghai.

B Greetings of the President of Kazakhstan Stomatological Association and the President of United Kazakhstan Association of Dentists

Dana Ospanova and Saule Yessembayeva, the presidents of the Kazakh dental societies, are proud and honored to host the first ERO Plenary Session in Almaty. They will do their utmost to make this event a success and to ensure that Kazakhstan leaves everyone with fond memories. They thank all participants for traveling to Kazakhstan and wish everyone a wonderful stay.

Presentation by the National Liaison Officer of the Kazakhstan Stomatological Association

Azamat Baigulakov welcomes all participants. He presents Almaty, the largest city of Kazakhstan. In Kazakhstan, dental care is provided by 3,688 dentists with higher medical education and 9,998 dental assistants with technical medical training. Around 88% of services are delivered by private providers, while the public sector includes 9 state dental organizations and over 700 dental units within multidisciplinary clinics.

The Ministry of Health ensures free dental care for children under 18, pregnant women, and selected vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, pensioners, and low-income families.

Caries prevalence remains high: 86% among 6-year-olds, 75% among 12-year-olds, and 87% among 15-year-olds. Among adults, prevalence reaches 83% in urban areas and 76% in rural regions.

The dental profession is represented by the National Committee of Kazakhstan Dentistry, combining the Kazakhstan Stomatological Association and the United Kazakhstan Association of Dentists. Their focus includes professional development, legal protection, maintaining a national dentist register, organizing congresses, and participating in global dental forums such as the FDI General Assembly and ERO Plenary Sessions. Charitable activities also support vulnerable populations. His presentation is uploaded on the ERO Website for more information.

The Kazakhstani dental community welcomes collaboration and wishes all participants a successful plenary session.

Greetings of Anna Lella - Vice-President of CED

Anna Lella expresses great pleasure in attending the ERO Plenary Session in Almaty, noting that the meeting was originally scheduled to take place in Kazakhstan five years ago, but was postponed due to the pandemic. Representing the Council of European Dentists (CED) as its Vice President, and speaking also as a former ERO president, she recalls that the CED was originally established by ERO members under the name Dental Liaison Committee (DLC), with the initial task of negotiating with European institutions on the recognition of dental qualifications.

Today, ERO and CED are the two largest dental organizations in Europe, each operating independently within their respective areas of focus. While the CED mainly concentrates on EU legislation affecting dentistry, both organizations have recently strengthened cooperation on common issues such as corporate dentistry and updating the Manual of

Dental Practice in Europe. Anna Lella emphasizes that there is no competition, but rather fruitful collaboration between ERO and CED. She warmly thanks the Kazakh hosts — Dana Ospanova, Saule Yessembayeva, and Azamat Baigulakov — for their hospitality and excellent organization of the meeting and accompanying events. She concludes by wishing all participants successful and enjoyable meetings.

C Standard agenda of the Plenary Session

C.1 Roll call Taner Yücel

Establishment of the quorum

51 out of 69 possible delegates are present – **the quorum is achieved. As tellers are nominated: Marek Szewczynski + Narmin Feyzullayeva.**

C.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is **approved without dissenting votes**

C.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary Session 2024 / Istanbul

The board did not receive any written comments on the minutes, and they were approved unanimously.

C.4 Report of the President and the Board

The president reflected on her three years of service, highlighting the active work of the board with a total of 33 meetings, both in-person and online, as well as six successful plenary sessions held across Europe and beyond.

Key achievements during this period included the publication of the 60th Anniversary Booklet, the launch of a new website, and increased visibility on various social media platforms. The ERO Member Support Task Force and the joint ERO-CED Taskforce on Corporate Dentistry were initiated, while financial stability was maintained throughout. Strategic projects advanced collaboration on the European Manual of Dentists, the establishment of new working groups on Oral & General Health, Digitalisation, and AI, as well as the development of an Ethics Code and the ERO/EDSA Award. Notable membership changes included new members from Moldova, Ireland, Republica Srpska, and Uzbekistan, while Latvia left and Albania was suspended.

The main concerns addressed were Corporate Dentistry, education and support for young dentists, insurance gaps, rising costs, and the quality of dental education. Working groups delivered projects such as the Toothbrushing App for Seniors, publications, a digital terminology library, and statements on sugar reduction.

Ongoing initiatives continue to focus on corporate practice surveys, harmonizing education standards, public preventive programs, addressing student needs, and further exploring digitalization through surveys, teleconsultation, and AI position papers.

Finally, the president expressed her gratitude to the member countries for their invitations to conferences and roundtables, which offered valuable opportunities to promote and represent ERO.

Report of Paula Perlea – ERO Councilor

Paula Perlea reflects on the activities of the Board, including numerous meetings, the production of newsletters, social media posts, the work of the working groups, and many other achievements. She highlights the website where NDAs can contribute content and promote their events and encourages members to provide material for the ERO's social media channels. She also mentions the ongoing collaboration with EDSA and the annual student award. This year's topics are *The Role of Dentists in Tobacco Cessation* and *Oral Health for Elderly Patients*. Paula Perlea thanks the President for her dedicated work.

C.5 Finances

5.1 Settlement of accounts 2024

The treasurer presents the 2024 accounts. The 2024 accounts show a deficit of €7,402.36, which is significantly better than the budget. Membership fee income was higher than budgeted, and expenditures for various expenses, plenary sessions, and working group projects remained below budget.

He also refers to the balance sheet. The two bank accounts hold a solid amount of € 392'368.20.

5.2 Outstanding fees

Oliver Zeyer informs that 2 member associations have not yet paid their 2024 dues.

5.3 Report of the auditor

Enrico Lai carried out the internal audit of the accounts and found the 2024 accounts to be correct and complete. He recommends that the delegates approve the 2024 accounts.

The delegates approve the 2024 invoice without a dissenting vote.

5.4 Budget 2025

As always, the treasurer has prepared a conservative budget, which anticipates a small deficit of approximately €5,000. The somewhat more distant locations of the upcoming ERO General Assemblies and the possibility of slightly more in-person meetings are expected to lead to higher expenses for the Executive Board and secretarial services. The costs for the Plenary Assembly will be slightly lower, while the budget for other expenses remains in line with the previous year.

Oliver Zeyer once again encourages the allocated funds for the working groups to be fully utilised, noting that suitable project proposals should be submitted.

There is a brief discussion regarding the lack of financial interest. Since no investments have been made and the funds are held in a bank account, no interest has been generated. Should there be a wish to change this approach, the Executive Board would need to evaluate the options and present them for a vote at a future General Assembly.

The 2025 budget is ultimately adopted unanimously, with no abstentions.

Simona Dianiskova thanks the outgoing treasurer for his excellent work over the past years.

C.6 ERO Ethic Code – Presentation

Edoardo Cavallé reminds the assembly that the Code of Ethics serves as a guide for members to uphold the founding values of the association. It is a charter of rights and duties that defines the responsibilities of each NDA and directs them to respect the core values of the ERO. Membership in the ERO requires adherence not only with the ERO Statutes and Regulations, but also with this Code of Ethics.

The draft Code was already presented at the previous Plenary Session, and written comments or proposed amendments were invited. Feedback has been received from the BDA, which now needs to be reviewed and evaluated. Naturally, the final text will also be carefully revised to ensure smooth and correct English.

The current timeline foresees that a vote on the Code of Ethics will take place at the next Plenary Session in the spring.

C.7 Presentation of the candidates (ERO Board elections mandate 2025-2028)

All candidates for a position in the ERO Board have the floor and present themselves.

C.8 Working groups

8.1 Ageing Population

On behalf of the Chair, Jean-Philippe Haesler, who apologized for his absence, Alexandre Deza presents the results of the working group. Since the last Plenary Session, the group has held several meetings.

He introduces the Toothbrushing App, with sheets sorted by theme and a color-coded classification system.

The webpage is now online at: www.seniortoothbrushing.com

The app is available for download on the ERO Website and currently offers 15 languages. The redesigned graphics are the result of the excellent work and strong commitment of the IT company together with the dedicated efforts of the working group members.

The next step is to promote and disseminate the app, and the group kindly asks for the support of the NDAs in this effort.

The next topic the group will address is “nutrition for the elderly population”.

Simona Dianiskova thanks the Chair and all members of the working group for their dedication and efforts in creating this app.

8.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Oliver Zeyer reported on behalf of Gerhard Seeberger, who apologized for his absence. A presentation was delivered, summarizing recent activities and developments of the Working Group.

A scientific paper entitled *Changing Dental Profession in the WHO European Region: Analysis of the Organization and Education Framework* was published in *Quintessence International*, Volume 55, Number 9, October 2024. The article is available on the ERO website. A second paper is currently under peer review.

The WG has held several meetings to discuss a new study comparing data from 2018 with current data, focusing on changes in dental practices and organizational structures across countries.

A joint project with the CED is addressing the challenge of motivating dentists to return to independent private practice rather than working in corporate dental centres. In this context, the reluctance of young dentists to open or take over private practices is being investigated. A draft questionnaire was elaborated by Jacques Deniaud.

Future topics for the WG LDPE were discussed. The next focus will be on “Advertising regulations for dental practices”, examining differences between regulations for individual dentists and corporate entities.

The recruitment of new members for the WG remains a priority. The WG Chair has contacted ERO members to encourage nominations.

At the ERO Spring Plenary Session in Limassol, Cyprus, Thomas Wolf presented a new project investigating the preferred working structure of young dentists. A multilingual questionnaire was developed in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, and Russian. Members are invited to participate or circulate the questionnaire among their members via the following link:

<https://survey.zmk.unibe.ch/surveys/?s=39HXJDFJ38NKTXDM>

It was also announced that Thomas Wolf has been appointed as the new Chair of the WG. Simona Dianiskova thanked Oliver Zeyer and Gerhard Seeberger for their work and congratulated Thomas Wolf on his appointment.

8.3 Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities

Mare Saag reported on the activities of the Working Group and presented the latest results.

The study is the first systematic analysis of cooperation between National Dental Associations (NDAs) and dental faculties from the perspective of NDAs, based on previous work by Yamalik et al. (2013). The objectives are to identify areas of collaboration, assess strengths and gaps, and develop recommendations for improvement.

The majority of NDAs report frequent engagement with dental faculties. Identified areas needing improvement include:

- Economic and political cooperation,
- Workforce planning,
- National oral health strategies.

The following topics were addressed:

- Cooperation in teaching,
- Partnership development and core topics,
- Workforce issues, scholarships, and migration.

Detailed results are available in the presentation uploaded to the ERO website.

Recommendations for action:

- Include NDA representatives in faculty committees,
- Establish joint working groups on curriculum, continuing education, and workforce planning,
- Conduct biannual roundtable meetings with stakeholders,
- Initiate joint funding applications and share teaching/practical infrastructure,
- Perform annual evaluations and adjust cooperation strategies accordingly.

New Project: Postgraduate Training Needs and Trends

A new project has started to evaluate:

- Education, specialization, and occupational preferences (including gender-based preferences),
- Competition for dental student positions,
- Requirements and structures for postgraduate training,
- Emerging trends and challenges in dentistry.

Mare Saag thanked all members of the WG for their active participation and contributions.

8.4 Integration

Ilshat Yuldashev presented the current issues and activities of the Integration Group.

Main topics addressed:

EU Manual of Dental Practice: Ongoing reference for the group's work.

Undergraduate Education:

- Aim to unify undergraduate education in line with international standards and programs.
 - Work towards equalizing postgraduate education requirements in Eastern European countries, aligning certification and accreditation with European or global standards.
- In many CIS countries, the term "stomatologist" is still in use for dental practitioners with higher education. The "dentist" title often refers to specialists without higher education qualifications. Currently, in Central Asia, retraining is taking place to convert these positions into dental hygienists or oral hygienists.

Preventive Programs:

Promotion of national preventive programs focused on public education, particularly for young children (pre-school and school age), with the goal of encouraging responsible oral health behaviour.

Collaboration with the European Society of Dental Ergonomics:

- Interest in reactivating cooperation through a workshop held prior to the Plenary Session in Almaty. Ergonomics in dentistry is seen as particularly relevant for countries in the former USSR region.

Suggestions by the Group:

- Unify educational programs across Europe.
- Share existing programs, manuals, and methodological materials.
- Explore opportunities for inviting lecturers and obtaining training materials.
- Consider introducing such programs initially as elective postgraduate courses.

Simona Dianiskova thanked Ilshat Yuldashev and the group for their work and suggestions.

8.5 Continuing medical education in Dentistry

Hande SarSancakly starts by presenting their last projects.

One is about «Building the Continuing Education Structure for Young Dentists»

Continuing education (CE) is essential for oral health professionals to maintain up-to-date knowledge and provide high-quality care. Young dentists, as frontline health providers, require CE that matches their learning preferences.

A joint ERO-EDSA survey revealed a gap between current CE offerings and young professionals' needs. ERO recommends National Dental Associations tailor CE programs accordingly.

Key Points:

- Clinical, medical, and operative topics are prioritized to enhance patient care and clinical skills.
- Hands-on courses and workshops are preferred formats, alongside traditional lectures and conferences.
- Credibility, lecturer expertise, format, timing, venue, and cost influence participation, with smaller groups (up to 15) preferred.

Conclusion:

- Young dentists are committed to ongoing professional development.
- Combining clinical specialties with practical, hands-on learning improves skills and knowledge.
- Adoption of new educational technologies, including virtual reality simulation, is encouraged.
- ERO calls for collaboration among European NDAs and educational stakeholders to update CE offerings to meet future oral health professional needs.

This statement is also uploaded on the ERO website ([Resolutions/Statements 2024 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#))

She further pointed out to the FDI efforts in preparing the next generation of oral health professionals to meet evolving healthcare needs, strengthening continuing education for the future of dentistry and gave insights from the ERO-EDSA collaboration. The presentation is uploaded on the ERO Website [Almaty 2025 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#).

Simona Dianiskova thanks her for the precious work.

8.6 Dental Team

Doniphan Hammer presented the Review of ongoing training of the dental team within ERO. The goals of the project were:

- To gather information on current practices in ERO member countries,
- To provide a useful information base for all stakeholders,
- To create or improve elements of national continuing education systems.

The data was collected through an online survey.

Survey responses:

- 25 countries participated in the survey.
- In 21 of these countries, continuing education is mandatory for dentists.

Most dentists complete more than 10 hours of CE annually, with costs varying widely.

For dental assistants, chairside assistants, dental hygienists, administrative assistants, and dental technicians, participation and CE requirements vary significantly across countries, with many team members receiving less than 5 hours of CE per year. Specialized roles exist in some countries.

The survey highlights the diversity of CE structures, costs, and recognition of different team roles within ERO countries. The detailed results concerning the various members of the dental team, supported by clear graphics, are available in his presentation on the ERO website ([Almaty 2025 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#)).

At the conclusion of his report, Doniphan Hammer noted that this was his final presentation as chair of the working group. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve in this role over the past six years and thanked all members of the group for their excellent cooperation.

Simona Dianiskova thanked Doniphan Hammer for his work. Kristjan Gutman will take over the chairmanship of the working group; thanks were also extended to him.

8.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence

Roman Smucler summarises the work and considerations of the working group.

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Dentistry

- AI is becoming an important auxiliary tool in dental practice.
- Applications include systematic reviews, failure prediction, automated implant planning, image analysis, patient-specific informed consent, predictive modelling, robotic surgery, and virtual surgical simulation.
- Data quality, standardization, ethical guidelines, IP rights, patient data protection, and regulatory frameworks remain key concerns.
- Fully automated AI-driven informed consent processes are being developed.

2. Teledentistry

- Ongoing developments and challenges were discussed.
- There is a need for clear regulations regarding practice standards and patient eligibility.
- Case studies from different countries and organizations were presented.

3. Education in Digital Dentistry

- The need for updated curricula and re-education of the entire dental team was emphasized.
- Collaboration with ADEE was mentioned in relation to standardized guidelines for continuing education.
- Digital competencies need to be integrated into pre-graduate education.

4. Cybersecurity and Data Protection

- Increasing threats require new cybersecurity measures.
- Secure communication and data storage practices are essential for protecting patient information.

5. Integration of Digital Tools in Clinical Workflows
 - Several successful case studies were presented.
 - Challenges remain with interoperability between digital systems and electronic health data storage (EDHS) and cloud platforms.
6. Patient Perspective and Communication
 - Improved patient understanding of digital technologies is crucial.
 - Clear communication of benefits, risks, and privacy issues was highlighted.

Outlook:

- The group discussed the possibility of organizing an autumn webinar for national dental bodies.
- The use of AI tools for streamlining information sharing was proposed.

Prof. Falk Schwendicke (Munich) contributed to the discussions with additional insights.

Simona Dianiskova thanks Roman Smucler and his group for their much-appreciated work.

8.8 Oral Health & General Health

Here are the essential points out of Mick Armstrong's report:

The Working Group discussed the strong link between dental disease and general health. Nearly all dental diseases are preventable, and there are well-established bidirectional relationships between oral health and systemic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and dementia. The costs of treatment for dental disease are enormous; however, prevention has been proven to be effective, not only improving patient health, happiness, and productivity, but also providing the most sustainable option for the planet.

Approaches to Prevention

Prevention can be implemented in multiple settings, including dental surgeries, outreach programmes, dental team activities, and by teledentistry. A comprehensive public health approach is essential. Measures include improving oral and general health literacy, introducing sugar taxes, implementing fluoridation, and creating incentives for both patients and dental professionals.

Guiding Principles

The group aligned its work with key international frameworks and principles, including Vision 2030, WHO's Universal Health Coverage (UHC), and the Bangkok Declaration on Oral and General Health. Collaboration across the dental team, government, public health institutions, professional ethics, and broader moral responsibility, as well as a focus on sustainability, remain central to these efforts.

Progress Achieved

The group has so far developed a comprehensive anti-sugar position paper (in collaboration with CED), an anti-tobacco paper (also with CED), and documented numerous national initiatives, though many remain fragmented. A survey of these initiatives will be conducted by the NDAs, with results to be analysed and published. The FDI's Prevention and Sustainability Task Force is also actively contributing to this work.

Challenges Identified

Currently, only about 50% of the global population receives dental care (e.g. even within the UK NHS, only 60% coverage is reached). Vulnerable, disadvantaged, and remote populations remain underserved. Additional challenges include workforce shortages, questions around the remuneration for preventive care, and internal resistance within the profession.

Barriers

Barriers to progress include government disinterest, the overall cost of dentistry, patients' beliefs and attitudes, and occasionally the profession itself.

Conclusion

Despite these obstacles, the group emphasized that prevention is achievable, logical, ethical, and morally sound. Dentistry will continue to be needed, respected, and rewarded. However, success will require sustained effort and patience, as there are no quick solutions.

At the end he refers to the third edition of a publication on "Delivering better oral health: an evidence-based toolkit for prevention" elaborated in collaboration with BDA.

Simona Dianiskova also thanks for this report.

8.9 Approval of the reports of the Working groups

All reports are accepted unanimously.

C.9 Member countries

Taner Yücel leads through this agenda item.

Admission of new members

The delegates approve unanimously the admission of the following new member organizations:

Association of dentists in the Republic of Srpska
The Republic of Srpska, Chamber of Doctors in Dentistry,
Irish Dental Association
Uzbekistan Dental Association

They are welcomed with warm applause.

Resignation of members – no resignation

National reports and discussion

Presented by Taner Yücel

The National Dental Associations (NDAs) provided updates on several key issues:

Changes in Associations

Several NDAs reported leadership changes. For example, the Austrian Dental Chamber appointed a new managing director, and the Turkish Dental Association elected a new board in October 2024.

Insurance Systems

Public health systems continue to face financial challenges, worsened by the Covid-19 pandemic, economic recession, and inflation. Negotiations with public health agencies are becoming increasingly difficult. The EU's decision to ban dental amalgam also presents financial and practical challenges in countries like Austria and Slovenia, where composite alternatives often require co-payment.

Trends in Professional Policy

Efforts continue to improve the quality of healthcare across Europe, including new healthcare quality acts in countries such as Slovenia, Czech Republic, and Armenia. The importance of monitoring dental care quality, patient complaint mechanisms, billing control, and participation in continuing education were emphasized.

Continuing Education (CE)

Many NDAs expressed concern about the rapid increase in dental schools with limited academic staff, impacting the quality of dental education. Most EU countries require mandatory CE, but systems differ. There is interest in developing a common European credit point system for CE, though substantial work is still needed. Structured CE with proper evaluation is seen as essential for ensuring quality.

Sugar Consumption and Public Health

Poor oral health linked to sugar consumption is a significant economic burden. Several NDAs advocate for stronger public policies, including higher taxation on sugar-sweetened beverages, to reduce consumption and improve public oral health.

Corporate Dentistry

Investor-driven dental chains remain a concern for many NDAs due to perceived risks to patient care quality, ethical standards, and working conditions for dentists. Younger dentists, facing economic pressures, are often more attracted to such corporate models. NDAs stress the need to educate dental students on the principles of liberal, patient-centred dental practice.

Simona Dianiskova thanks all for having submitted their reports. This is considerable work. There is no discussion.

Taner Yücel addressed the assembly, noting that this was his final participation at the international level after 22 years of dedicated service. He expressed his gratitude to all those present and to everyone who has contributed to the work of ERO and FDI over the years. Taner Yücel emphasized the significance of this work and highlighted some of the most important milestones achieved during his tenure. He stated that it had been a great honour to represent his country on the international stage and extended his best wishes and warm regards to all colleagues and friends.

On behalf of ERO, Simona Dianiskova thanked Taner Yücel for his long-standing commitment and valuable contributions to international dental organizations.

C. 10 Elections

There are 51 authorized voters.

- Paula Perlea is the sole candidate for the position of President-elect; however, an election is held.

Paula Perlea is elected with 45 votes in favour, 3 against, and 2 abstentions.

- Doris Seitz is the sole candidate for the position of Secretary General; however, an election is held.

Doris Seitz is elected with 39 votes in favour, 5 against, and 3 abstentions.

- Seven candidates (Azamat Baigulakov, Sophie Fleming, Tomasz Gedrange, Oleg Gladkov, Paulo Melo, Ariel Slutzky, and Ilshat Yuldashev) stood for election for the two Board Member positions.

After six ballots, Oleg Gladkov is elected with 30 votes.

After a further three ballots, Ariel Slutzky is elected with 27 votes.

The new Board of Directors is composed as follows:

Edoardo Cavallé – President

Paula Perlea – President-elect

Doris Seitz – Secretary General

Oleg Gladkov – Councillor

Ariel Slutzky – Councillor

C. 11 Report from EDSA

As the EDSA representative unfortunately had to cancel his participation at short notice, there is no report here.

C. 12 FDI matters - report

Enzo Bondioni provided a brief update on ongoing FDI activities.

Shanghai Congress: Participants are encouraged to attend the upcoming congress in Shanghai.

Fluoride Discussions:

- Increasing public scrutiny on fluoride.
- Meetings held with ADA to address anti-fluoride advocacy.
- US Health Secretary R.F. Kennedy Jr. has advised the CDC to end water fluoridation; Utah plans to stop on 7 May.
- EPA is reviewing new data on fluoride's health risks.
- FDI is monitoring developments; policy statement on systemic fluoride is on hold, topical fluoride will proceed.
- Joint position statement planned with IADR.

Organizational Updates:

- Two new special committees established: Subscription Formula and Open World Dental Parliament.
- Advocacy remains a strategic priority; a global coalition on oral health is in preparation.

WHO World Health Assembly (19–27 May):

- FDI to participate in several side events on oral health, health workforce, and AMR, in collaboration with IADR, Malaysia, and WHPA.

Vision 2030 / Vision 2040:

- Mid-term survey on Vision 2030 progress to be conducted May–June 2025.
- Preparation for Vision 2040 to begin shortly.

Other Updates:

- UN High-Level Meeting scheduled for September.
- Sustainability Summit upcoming; registration recommended.

Simona Dianiskova thanked Mr. Bondioni for his report and highlighted the upcoming Women in Dentistry Anniversary, encouraging broad participation.

C. 13 Next meetings

Plenary session 2025 (Autumn - Shanghai) – the date will be announced as soon as known.

Plenary session 2026 (Spring)

Oleg Gladkov presents the city of Sofia for the 2026 spring session. As the sole candidate, **Sofia is automatically elected unopposed**. The proposed dates are 24-25 April 2026.

C.14 Miscellaneous

Doniphan Hammer expressed disappointment about the lack of general discussion following the National Reports and suggested establishing a forum for broader exchange. Simona Dianiskova noted that there had been an opportunity for discussion but acknowledged a possible misunderstanding. She proposed allocating more time for such discussions in the future and thanked Doniphan Hammer for his input.

Edoardo Cavallé supported the proposal and suggested organizing Zoom meetings to address specific topics, asking the Secretariat to coordinate.

Mick Armstrong refers on the discussion about the differences in advertising regulations across countries that seems very important to him. He further suggested that social media developments should also be reviewed.

No further questions were raised. The incoming president may address these topics in due course.

C.15 Handing over of the presidency

Simona Dianiskova hands over the presidential chain to Edoardo Cavallé. She emphasizes that it was a privilege to work with the Board and highlights the importance of friendship and good cooperation with the board members and the delegates. Edoardo Cavallé expresses his pride in taking over the presidency. Acknowledging the significant legacy, he looks forward to future collaboration. He offers the outgoing president a small gift.

T.C. Wong conveys greetings from the Asian Pacific Organisation. She congratulates Simona on her excellent presidency and extends best wishes to the new president for the future. As a token of appreciation and in recognition of the long-standing and excellent cooperation, she presents a gift to the new president.

Simona Dianiskova now expresses her thanks to everyone on the Board, the Secretariat, the interpreters and the Organizers. She wishes the new Board all the best and great success in achieving their goals. She is not saying a final goodbye, as she will remain involved in two ERO working groups as well as in the FDI.

D Close of the meeting

Adjournment

The plenary session is adjourned at 12.30 h.

Dr. Edoardo Cavallé
President

Monika Lang
Minutes

President: Dr. Edoardo Cavallé (Italy) • President-Elect: Prof. Paula Perlea (Romania) •
Secretary General: Dr. Doris Seiz (Germany) • Councilor: Dr. Oleg Gladkov (Bulgaria) • Councilor: Dr. Ariel Slutsky (Israel)

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