

**ERO-Plenary Session**  
**10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Shanghai, China**  
**09h30 – 12h30**  
**National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC)**

Presentations are available on the ERO Website:

[Shanghai 2025 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#)

## **Minutes**

### **A Welcome**

#### **A.1 ERO-President**

Edoardo Cavallé welcomed all participants to this plenary session

#### **A.2 Welcome of guests**

The presidents gave a special welcome to the former presidents of ERO, Anna Lella and Simona Dianišková.

### **B Standard agenda of the business meeting**

#### **B.1 Roll call**

Establishment of the quorum

Doris Seiz announced that 55 out of 72 possible delegates having voting rights are present. The quorum was established.

Marion Dordain and Felix Schmidt were appointed as tellers.

#### **B.2 Approval of the agenda**

The agenda was approved unanimously.

#### **B.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary session 2025 – Almaty**

All delegates have received them. We received no questions and objections informed Doris Seiz. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### **B.4 Report of the Board**

Edoardo Cavallé gave an update on the Board's work since the plenary session in Almaty.

There have been two meetings so far – one in person and one online – covering a wide range of topics and continuing projects started by the previous Board.

Highlights included:

- Enhancing the website with more information and improved social media presence.
- More open discussion at plenary sessions Following Doniphan Hammers's comment in Almaty.
- Simona Dianišková's report on the CED-ERO Task Force on Corporate Dentistry.
- Work on updating the Code of Ethics and considering an amendment to the constitution to allow funding from sources beyond membership fees.
- Efforts to strengthen relationships with students and the successful renewal of collaboration with ESDE.

## **B.5 Social Media Task Team**

There has been a lot of activity on social media, and the statistics reflect this positive trend, reported Paula Perlea. She mentioned that such consistent presence online is crucial to strengthen visibility and disseminate information effectively. She presented the current Social Media Channels and a draft analysis of the current impact of our Social Media Project. She highlighted the current content and engagement levels, as well as plans for setting up webinars. The Working Group on Digitalization is already developing a related project, and maybe a higher budget for social media could be considered. Further analysis will be needed, and input from the NDAs is, of course, always welcome. She also encouraged ERO members to provide proposals to enhance the level of presence in Social Media, including financial proposals. She encouraged collaboration of the delegates present and shows the SoMe QR codes.

Ariel Slutsky presented the social media strategy. The first task is to restructure the newsletter and send it out monthly. The second is to strengthen our presence on social media, and finally, to improve internal communication through the creation of an NLO WhatsApp group. This platform is fast and helps us stay connected. Many have already shared their contact details; those who haven't are kindly asked to get in touch with the secretariat.

The exchange of opinions and contact with our NDAs is very important. This was also highlighted in the FDI NLO Forum, remarked Edoardo Cavallé.

Katalin Nagy emphasized the importance of maintaining professionalism on the ERO WhatsApp group, as celebrating every occasion online can quickly become excessive and rather annoying. Azamat Baigulakov agreed that social media can be useful but highlighted that institutional approaches differ, a point Edoardo Cavallé also supported. Alexandre Deza from France stressed the value of social media, particularly for engaging younger audiences. He requested clarification on where to submit news—whether to the Secretariat or elsewhere—so that content can be properly shared. It is either to [secretariat@erodental.org](mailto:secretariat@erodental.org) or [info@erodental.org](mailto:info@erodental.org) that this information should be sent. Doris Seiz confirmed that the website will be updated to support this. Edoardo Cavallé reminded the group that the challenge lies not in the platform itself, but in the content. Social media should be a two-way channel, and members are encouraged to provide updates and share their news. Mick Armstrong raised concerns about the Working Group, questioning whether coordination is feasible with limited office support and whether one person can manage the workload alone. Paula Perlea reassured the group that the necessary facilities are in place; what remains essential is active contribution of content from members.

## **B.6 Finances**

Oleg Gladkov provided a brief update on finances, reporting that this year's situation is stable, with three-quarters of the membership fees already paid. Any increase in social media spending is planned for next year; for this year, all budgets have been finalized. Doniphan Hammer raised the question of placements, noting that it appears no progress has been made. Oleg Gladkov was not yet able to provide an answer. Doniphan Hammer suggested that if this topic is to be addressed next year, it should be included on the agenda along with a proposal or explanation if no action is planned.

## **B.7 Working groups**

### **7.1 Ageing Population-Philippe Haesler**

Jean-Philippe Haesler introduced Kieran O'Connor from Ireland as new member of the group. He reported that the team has been working well, and the "senior toothbrushing app" is now available in 15 languages, although unfortunately these are not yet reflected on the website. The next focus will be on malnutrition, as outlined in the presentation. Jean-Philippe Haesler emphasized that the goal is not to reinvent the wheel but to gather and consolidate existing papers on the topic. A questionnaire will also be circulated, and he already thanks everyone in advance for their responses.

## 7.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Thomas Wolf thanked the newly formed working group for the great willingness to actively participate and expressed his appreciation for the trust placed in him as new chair of the working group. The group has already met twice. The current study, “*Dynamics of Dental Education: Organization and Regulation of Dental Practice in Europe 2016–2023*”, published in IDJ 75, reflects how the world is changing. He showed the results of this study (see presentation), noting that the backbone of the profession remains liberal practice.

The *Survey on Young Dentists’ Workplace and Employment* has already been presented twice. He demonstrated how to access to the survey via QR code and link, with the questionnaire available in multiple languages, and encouraged further responses. Social media has proven more effective than newsletters in reaching young dentists, so the delegates and NDAs are asked to share it widely.

Thomas Wolf concluded by thanking all working group members, the Secretariat, and Oli Zeyer as Vice-Chair for their active contributions.

## 7.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Mare Saag introduced the members of her working group and outlined their objectives. The group aims to identify areas of successful collaboration and partnerships, as well as those that could be improved, and to formulate specific recommendations for action.

So far, responses have been received from NDAs in 41 countries, with the initial results presented at the Almaty meeting.

Looking ahead to 2025/2026, the group plans to continue with the ongoing project. The next steps include compiling a list of universities along with the names and email addresses of professors responsible for the dental curriculum, reorganizing, translating, and circulating the questionnaire to faculties, and inviting Nermin Tarhan to collaborate on the project. She thanked all members for her active collaboration.

## 7.4 Integration

Ishat Yuldashev presented his group. Currently they are working on giving updates from the different Eastern European countries to the *Manual of Dental Practice* (2015) which reflects the EU requirements for medical and dental specialties, education systems, dental colleges, and universities.

The manual highlights the need for the unification of undergraduate dental education according to established educational standards and programs. It also emphasizes the equalization of requirements for postgraduate education in Eastern European countries, aligning them with European and global standards for certification and accreditation.

A key challenge remains the unification of undergraduate education across different regions. In most CIS countries, the professional responsible for treating teeth and oral diseases, as well as facial organs and tissues, is called a stomatologist, rather than a dentist. While a “specialty dentist” exists, this designation does not correspond to a higher-education specialist. In Central Asian countries, this role is currently being retrained into positions such as dental hygienist, oral hygienist, or school dentist. Giving a counter direction here is a real challenge.

The next priorities include ensuring the widespread implementation of preventive programs and educating the public, particularly children of pre-school and school age. This involves promoting governmental preventive programs and fostering a responsible attitude toward oral health.

Simona Dianišková is happy that Ishat Yuldashev has brought up the EU Manual. She hopes all non-EU countries will participate and thanked those who already did. Contributions from 6 countries are still missing – she will approach them personally, so the work can be finished. She is grateful for Ishat Yuldashev’s collaboration.

## 7.5 Continuing medical education in Dentistry

Hande Sar Sancakli referred to the approval of the statement on “*Building the Continuing Education Structure for Young Dentists*”, which was presented in Almaty and is also available on the ERO website ([Resolutions/Statements 2024 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#)). She noted that the FDI released

new survey results yesterday, and a policy statement will be issued based on these findings.

She then announced her decision to step down as chair of the working group and expressed her gratitude to Marzena Dominiak (Poland) for agreeing to take over the role. The ERO Board extended sincere thanks to Hande Sar Sancakli for her many years of dedicated service to the working group.

## **7.6 Dental Team**

Kristjan Gutman thanked his predecessor for his significant contributions. At the recent working group meeting, a new topic was identified: “Bureaucracy and Documentation Responsibilities in the Dental Team.” Over the past years, bureaucracy has increased, with dentists spending an hour or more daily on paperwork—time that should be compensated and which also presents a barrier for younger colleagues.

The group plans to map bureaucratic procedures across different countries and synthesize the findings into a practical toolkit. The objectives are to:

- Support simplification in over-regulated countries
- Provide ready-to-use documentation for under-regulated countries
- Strengthen members and national organizations

Roadmap: Zoom meetings are planned for fall 2025, an in-person meeting in February 2026, and the first draft of the questionnaire is expected in Sofia, 2026.

Konstantin von Laffert noted that Germany likely faces the highest levels of bureaucracy and expressed his gratitude for the working group’s efforts. Eddie Crouch added that they also encounter significant challenges with bureaucracy and equally appreciate the group’s work.

## **7.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence**

Roman Smucler presentation was on “*AI in Everyday Dental Practice 2025: What Works, What Pays Off*”. The objectives are to highlight current, low-risk AI applications that save time and money in routine dental clinics, and to align ERO and FDI on whole-team training through smartphones and an international webinar for NLOs and specialists.

Current Applications:

AI is proving most effective in administrative tasks, offering fast return on investment with low risk; the main consideration is the need for careful editing. Suggested use cases include:

- Ambient Scribe for structured notes
- Claims preparation and pre-check
- Scheduling and rescheduling
- Informed consents and patient information

Successful Team Implementation:

- Mandate smartphone or headset use for ambient capture in the clinic, with patient consent; specialized units can work offline.
- Conduct a five-point micro-audit on every case.

Implementation Framework:

- Guardrails ensure safe and simple use
- A 90-day “No-Regrets” adoption plan
- Benchmarks and key literature provided as a handout
- Team training model based on the Czech reference system

International Webinar Proposal:

A pilot ERO-FDI webinar for officers and representatives is proposed to compare effective practices, exchange policy documents, and curate clinic-ready tools. The 60-minute format includes up to 30 minutes of case presentations (3 × 8–10 min) and ~30 minutes of Q&A. Speakers will be WG members, and deliverables include a recording, starter kit (checklists, consent templates, KPIs), and an ROI calculator. If successful, webinars will be repeated at least twice per year.

Next Steps:

- Online working group meeting within the month

- Finalize the webinar program and submit it to the Board
- Contact NDAs for participation

For more detailed information, see the presentation: [WG-Digitalization-in-dentistry-E-Health-Artificial-Intelligence.pdf](#)

### **7.8. Oral Health & General Health**

Mick Armstrong reported that the Working Group is in the final stages of developing a questionnaire on oral health strategies across European countries. The aim is to gather comprehensive information on national approaches and identify areas for collaboration and improvement. He thanked Marion Dordain and Sebastian Ziller for their valuable and constructive feedback on the draft.

Mick Armstrong noted, however, that the FDI recently released a very similar questionnaire—something he had not been aware of beforehand. He expressed concern about this overlap and said he would seek clarification on how the duplication occurred. He emphasized the importance of continued input from all Working Group members to ensure the ERO initiative remains relevant and distinct.

Doris Seiz agreed, highlighting that duplication of work should be avoided and that coordination between ERO and FDI is essential to make the best use of available resources and expertise.

### **7.9 Approval of the WG reports**

Doris Seiz thanked all WG chairs and members for their commitment. All NDAs were asked to confirm existing members or nominate new ones. Almost all have replied. She asks to inform the secretariat if there are any changes.

Edoardo Cavallé noted that it can sometimes be challenging to have all working group members attend the meetings. However, if a group is not meeting at all, this should be communicated. Every reserved room generates costs, even if it goes unused. The Board will also need to consider whether working group meetings should continue to take place during the FDI Congress.

All WG reports were approved unanimously.

## **B.8 ERO Ethic Code / Constitution Amendments**

Edoardo Cavallé reported that the Code of Ethics will be finalized in Sofia. However, the Constitution will need to be amended if the organization wishes to generate funding from sources other than membership fees. There were no objections, so the Plenary voted and carried the amendment to Constitution.

The text will read:

FINANCE - Article XVIII

1. ERO is financed by subscriptions from the member associations and by sponsorship according to Annex 1 of the ERO Ethic Code.

## **B.9 Member countries/Platform for discussion/Corporate Dentistry discussion/ Discussion with NDAs**

Simona Dianišková reported on the work of the CED–ERO Task Force on Corporate Dentistry. She noted that a survey on this topic is currently underway and shared the link, encouraging all members to participate and thanking them in advance for their cooperation. The results will form the basis for a forthcoming publication. She also expressed her gratitude to Thomas Wolf for his valuable support.

Preliminary findings indicate that in most EU and non-EU countries, non-dentists are permitted to own dental practices. Dental chains now exist in nearly every European country, and in most cases, there are no specific governmental regulations governing their operation. Moreover, rules issued by professional associations or chambers are generally not binding for non-dentist owners, which poses a significant challenge.

In many countries, national dental associations have introduced ethical codes that limit advertising and require that at least 50% of a clinic's owners be licensed dentists. However, these provisions are often difficult to enforce.

Simona Dianišková emphasized that corporate dentistry is a matter of growing importance across Europe. The Task Force will continue its work through further scientific research, aiming to collect precise data and provide a detailed analysis of the situation.

Doris Seiz thanked Simona Dianišková for her report. At the Almaty meeting, it was requested that delegates be given more time for discussion. We are happy to accommodate this request, but the topics must be proposed by the NDAs.

Doniphan Hammer emphasized the importance of continuing to address the topic of corporate dentistry. He suggested that the advantages of independent dental practice should be actively promoted, while also reflecting on the reasons behind the rapid rise of corporate dental chains. He stressed that the issue should be approached positively, focusing on constructive solutions rather than criticism.

A key point highlighted was the importance of initial dental education. This is where it all begins. In some countries, it is unclear how many dentists are being trained, and there are often significant differences in the quality of training between institutions. Since everything starts with the students, it is crucial to work on improving the quality of dental education from the very beginning.

#### **B.10 FDI matters - Presentation of the candidates FDI elections**

Candidates present in the Assembly were given the floor. Paula Perlea began by presenting herself as a candidate for the FDI Council, requesting support and emphasizing that Europe should have an additional representative. She mentioned that her candidacy was approved by FDI since June 2025 and a presentation of her candidacy was made to FDI General Assembly. She presented the relevant facts about the contribution of Europe to the budget of FDI and the relevance of Europe votes in FDI General Assembly. Based on these facts she considered that Europe deserves an additional seat in FDI Council. She also informed the ERO Plenary Session that Europe may lose additional seats in FDI Council in 2027 and also seats in FDI Standing Committees, if this seat in FDI Council will be lost in 2025. Despite of the fact that she could have had good chances to get this position, she noted that she had been asked to withdraw her candidacy due to her position as President-elect of ERO but reaffirmed her strong commitment to the organization. She mentioned that according to Art 3.3 of the ERO Constitution, one of the objectives of ERO is to appoint among the members of the Board a regional candidate to the FDI council, so it cannot be any conflict of interest.

Edoardo Cavallé clarified that the ERO Board had not been informed about her candidacy. This caught him and his colleagues by surprise and led to some internal discussion within the board. He explained that the quoted relevant constitutional article is historical and that no active ERO Board member has previously served on the FDI Council. He then invited opinions from the Assembly.

Doniphan Hammer thanked Paula for explaining her position, emphasizing that candidacies are personal and that the Assembly will make its decision democratically. The French delegation chose not to comment.

Paula Perlea emphasized that she did not intend to spark debate and confirmed that, if a choice were required, she would prioritize the ERO.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and Konstantin von Laffert supported Doniphan Hammer's statement, affirming that the decision is personal and that the Constitution does not explicitly prevent such a candidacy. Moreover, Konstantin von Laffert also presented the legal opinion of the BZAEK lawyers in Brussels supporting the fact that both constitutions of FDI and ERO do not contain any referrals to a conflict of interest or a ban for an ERO Board member to candidate for a position in FDI Council.

Addressing concerns about a possible conflict of interest, Paula Perlea stressed that an ERO Board member serving on the FDI Council could only be beneficial. Borislav Milanov requested clarification of her current roles, and Paula Perlea confirmed that she will not hold a position in FDI after tomorrow.

She concluded by reaffirming her dedication to the ERO.

Other candidates for a position on the FDI committees subsequently had the floor.

#### **B.11 Next meetings**

- Plenary session 2026 (Spring) - Sofia – 24/25 April  
Oleg Gladkov informs that all is prepared and the Bulgarian Dental Association is looking forward to welcoming all delegates from the ERO National Associations.
- Plenary session 2026 (Autumn) - Prague – during WDC 2.-9.9.2026  
More information will follow in due course.

#### **B.12 Miscellaneous**

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#### **C Close of the meeting**

The president thanks all delegates for the active collaboration, his board for supporting him and the interpreters for their precious work.  
He adjourns the plenary session at 12.30h.

Dr. Edoardo Cavallé  
President

Monika Lang  
Minutes

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