

ERO-Plenary Session 24/25 April 2026, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Hyatt Hotel Regency
Vasil Levski Square, Sofia 1504, Bulgaria**

**Friday, 24.04.2026
Saturday, 25.04.2026**

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

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1 Welcome of participants and guests

Edoardo Cavallé and Oleg Gladkov open the session.

A warm welcome goes to all the new faces in the room. Thank you for coming!

Excuses were received from the former ERO Presidents Anna Lella, Philippe Rusca and Patrick Hescot as well as from the CED-President Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg.

The delegates unanimously agreed to the appointment of Marion Dordain and Felix Schmidt as tellers.

A.2 Welcome from the Bulgarian Vice-Minister of Health - Petar Gribnev

Welcome from the Deputy Mayor of Sofia - Irina Dakova

The assembly was honoured to welcome the Vice Minister of Health, Peter Gribnev and the Deputy Mayor of Sofia, Irina Dakova, who offered words of greeting to the delegates. In their remarks, they acknowledged the importance of the assembly and wished the participants fruitful deliberations and a successful outcome.

A.3 Greetings from the President of FDI Nikolai Sharkov

The FDI President, Nikolai Sharkov, also extended a warm welcome to the delegates in his city. He wished them a successful meeting.

B. Greetings from the President of BgDA

The president of the Bulgarian Dental Association, Borislav Milanov, presents pictures of his country, gives historical insights and wishes everyone fruitful works and wonderful moments in Bulgaria. (Presentation on Website [Sofia 2026 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale](#))

Greetings from the President of BgDA Sofia

Rumen Iliev, President of the Sofia Branch of BgDA greets the delegates and wishes a wonderful stay in Sofia.

Presentation by the BgDA's National Liaison Officer

Iliyana Gladkova presented the Bulgarian national report. She outlined recent developments within the Bulgarian Dental Association, including leadership elections, the

implementation of the National Health Information System for dentistry, and ongoing negotiations with the National Health Insurance Fund. Particular attention was drawn to challenges related to access to dental care in rural areas and to regulatory developments within the dental profession. The report concluded with a proposal to continue discussions on the impact of artificial intelligence on dentistry and the dental team.

C Standard agenda of the Plenary Session

C.1 Roll call

Establishment of the quorum

The list of the registered participants is displayed on the screen. 59 (out of max. 78) delegates with voting rights are present. **The quorum is achieved.**

Doris Seiz has revealed some details regarding membership figures:

There are:

37 member countries - 33 participate in General Assembly Spring 2026

8 countries where 2 organisations are members of ERO (Croatia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Republic of North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Republic of SRPSKA)

New members since 2025:

- Ireland: Irish Dental Association
- Republic of SRPSKA: Association of dentists in the Republic of SRPSKA and
- The Republic of SRPSKA Chamber Doctors in Dentistry
- Uzbekistan: Uzbekistan Dental Association

Resignation in 2026:

- Belgium: Chambre de Médecine Dentaire

Exclusion in 2026:

- Kosovo: Dental Chamber of Kosovo

C.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is **unanimously approved**.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary Session 2025 / Shanghai

The word is not required in this matter, and the minutes were **approved unanimously**.

C.4 Report of the President and the Board

Edoardo Cavallé presented a report on the activities of the ERO Board since the Shanghai meeting. He highlighted the Board's work in strengthening communication through the new website and social media channels, fostering cooperation with partner organisations, advancing the ERO Code of Ethics, and supporting initiatives in dental education, quality of care, and healthy ageing. He also reported on ERO's growing international engagement and emphasised key challenges identified by member associations, including corporate dentistry, workforce development, financing of dental care, quality standards, and the impact of artificial intelligence on dental practice. Finally, he underlined the importance of active participation and clear objectives within the ERO working groups. (Full document - see Website)

Paula Perlea reported on recent meetings, including online meetings in December, February, March, and an in-person meeting in Berlin, for which she thanked Doris Seiz. She discussed the collaboration with the European Students Association, highlighting a fruitful online meeting in February and plans to continue working together on visibility and webinars. 35 essays were received for the ERO/EDSA award. They will now be reviewed, and the winners will be announced during their summer meeting. Paula Perlea also addressed social media efforts, noting 31 posts since the last meeting in Shanghai, and

emphasized the importance of showcasing diversity in their audience and involving different corporations and organizations.

C.5 Finances

5.1 Settlement of accounts 2025

Oleg Gladkov presented the financial report and informed the Assembly that ERO's financial position remains in good standing, with no significant changes compared with the previous year. He commented on the figures presented in the slides.

He reviewed various expense categories including meeting expenses, travel costs, and office rent. The total expenditures for 2025 were €132,519.87 with the proposed 2025 budget set at €135,625. As for the income the budget did foresee € 30500 whereas the accounts show an income of €132461.20. The actual deficit for 2025 is €58.67. The balance sheet shows a healthy financial cushion.

Doniphan Hammer congratulates the treasurer to this nice result and asks a question regarding the executive board's compensation. Oleg Gladkov explains that the Board's expenses are reimbursed as a lump sum under the expenses allowance scheme, which was approved by the delegates at previous meetings. Doniphan Hammer suggests that, given the healthy financial situation, consideration should be given to a potentially more profitable financial investment.

Oleg Gladkov presented a financial investment proposal involving approximately €200,000, with estimated annual returns of around €8,000 based on an expected dividend yield of 4%. The Treasurer noted that investments would need to be made early in the following year in order to qualify for dividends distributed in spring.

A discussion followed on possible investment options and the associated level of risk. Concerns were raised regarding potential losses, and the Treasurer emphasized the need for a collective decision both on whether to invest and on the investment vehicle to be selected. It was suggested that lower-risk alternatives should also be considered, and consultation with banking and legal experts was proposed to support decision-making. Pierre-Alain Haesler referred to Swiss investment regulations (BVV2), noting the importance of confirming compliance requirements.

The delegates agreed on the importance of making an informed decision but did not reach a conclusion during the meeting.

The topic will be discussed again in a future assembly.

5.2 Outstanding fees

At the moment there are no outstanding fees.

5.3 Report of the auditor

The treasurer reads the report of our internal auditor. The report confirms that the accounts have been kept correctly and proposes to adopt the accounts 2025.

The delegates followed this recommendation and **unanimously approved** the 2025 annual accounts.

5.4 Budget 2026

Oleg Gladkov presents the 2026 budget and explains the different amounts which do not differ much from the 2025 accounts. A deficit of € 3140 is planned. With regard to membership fees, he explains that the calculation is still based on the 2010 GNI; the only adjustment made is in line with the FDI's current membership list.

Vote: The Budget 2026 is **approved** by a majority, with no votes against and no abstentions.

5.5 Current status of the ongoing work of the FDI Special Committee on Membership Fees

Florian Lemor presented an update on the review of the FDI membership fee formula following discussions in Shanghai. Several alternative scenarios and their financial implications for member organisations were analysed, including the role of wealth factors, minimum and maximum fees, and possible links between membership contributions and voting rights. The Committee concluded that further work is required and will continue its assessment with additional analysis and consultation. (Presentation on Website)

C.6 ERO Ethic Code

There were no further amendments on the Code of Ethics presented earlier to the delegates. Edoardo Cavallé therefore asks the delegates to vote on this document.

Mick Armstrong raised a question regarding the consequences and possible sanctions applicable to individuals or National Dental Associations in cases of non-compliance and suggested that such provisions should be explicitly reflected in the relevant code or framework in order to provide clarity and transparency.

In response, Edoardo Cavallé explained that the proposed approach includes provisions relating to governance and sponsorship arrangements and that financial aspects are already regulated under existing rules. He further noted that the proposal does not substantially alter the current framework but is considered important in clarifying relationships and ensuring respect for national circumstances and local contexts.

Mick Armstrong reiterated his request for clarification regarding sanctions. No further detailed discussion took place on this point.

The delegates **accepted** the Code of Ethics **unanimously**.

C.7 Working groups

7.1 Ageing Population

Jean-Philippe Haesler presented usage statistics for the Senior Toothbrushing App, which indicated that the main challenge is visibility rather than content quality. Increased promotion was considered essential to improve outreach and uptake, and a communication draft for National Dental Associations (NDAs) was introduced to support dissemination.

He also presented a new project involving the development of a poster on protecting the oral health of dependent older people. An initial version created with the support of AI was considered unsatisfactory; therefore, the material will be further developed with professional graphic design support. A proposal will be submitted to the Board with the aim of presenting an improved version at the next meeting. (Presentation on Website)

7.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Thomas Wolf opened his report by expressing his gratitude to the local hosts in Sofia for the preparation and organisation of the meeting.

He informed the Assembly that the Working Group on Liberal Dental Practice in Europe had continued and intensified its work during the reporting period, focusing in particular on two areas: employment conditions/models for young dentists and the analysis of national advertising regulations.

An update was provided on the ongoing survey activities (on working and employment conditions of young dentists). It was noted that participation levels remain insufficient in several countries. In response, targeted measures have been implemented, including strengthened communication through social media channels and the involvement of international multipliers and partners. The objective is to improve geographical coverage and generate a stronger scientific basis for future analysis and conclusions.

Thomas Wolf reported that the data collected to date demonstrates the dynamic development of dental practice structures across geographical Europe and highlights emerging regulatory and ethical challenges.

Particular attention was drawn to observed discrepancies between the regulatory requirements applicable to self-employed dental practitioners and those applying to larger investor-driven organisations, including dental chains. This was reported to be particularly relevant in areas such as data management, external communication and approaches to patient acquisition and engagement.

It was noted that these developments raise broader questions regarding fair competition, the safeguarding of ethical standards and the maintenance of high-quality patient care.

On behalf of the Working Group, Thomas Wolf highlighted three key priorities:

1. increasing transparency and improving systematic access to national regulatory frameworks across Europe;
2. promoting greater coordination and dialogue at European level; and
3. developing and consistently applying clear ethical guidelines that apply equally across different practice models.

Reference was made to the ethical principles adopted by FDI as an important foundation, while noting the need for further specification and practical implementation in the current professional environment.

Looking ahead, the Working Group intends to intensify data collection activities, complete the analysis of advertising regulations and involve external expertise in order to develop evidence-based recommendations. Future work will continue to examine these developments from the perspectives of national dental associations, individual practitioners and patients.

The Assembly was also informed about plans to organise a joint meeting in June together with the Working Group on Relations between Dental Practitioners and Universities, with the support of the Hamburg Dental Chamber.

In closing, Thomas Wolf thanked the members of the Working Group for their committed cooperation and also expressed appreciation to the ERO Secretariat for its support.

He concluded by expressing confidence that continued joint efforts would contribute to the further development of a fair, ethically oriented and future-focused model of dental care.

7.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Mare Saag introduced the members of the Working Group and reported on activities since the Shanghai meeting. Four online meetings were held to develop the questionnaire and organise data collection.

The Working Group presented progress on its project examining collaboration between National Dental Associations (NDAs) and dental faculties. The questionnaire, aimed at assessing the extent, quality, and opportunities for cooperation from the universities' perspective, has been completed and distributed with support from ADEE, the Turkish Dental Association, and personal university contacts.

To date, 56 responses have been received from dental schools in 22 countries within the FDI European region. Mare Saag outlined the next steps, including continued data collection, analysis of the results, and publication of key findings and recommendations. Final results are expected to be presented in 2027. The discussion also highlighted the importance of transparency and clear ethical principles in future collaborations and noted potential opportunities for the Working Group to explore related topics in future projects. (Presentation on Website)

7.4 Integration

Ilshat Yuldashev presented the activities of the ERO Working Group "Integration", focusing on participation of Eastern European and CIS countries in the update of the EU Manual of Dental Practice and on comparative developments in dental education and professional structures across the region.

The presentation highlighted differences between public and private dental care systems, recognition of dental specialties, undergraduate and postgraduate education models, and the role of professional associations in educational standards. Particular attention was given to the harmonisation of education and professional qualifications and to strengthening preventive oral health programmes.

Future work will focus on promoting greater alignment of undergraduate and postgraduate education standards with European practice and supporting the implementation of national oral health prevention programmes. (Presentation on Website)

Mick Armstrong opened the discussion by referring to the relationship between general health and oral health and raised questions regarding prevention policies. He asked to what extent preventive approaches presented across countries reflect existing practices and why differences in implementation continue to occur.

In response, Ilshat Yuldashev explained that insurance structures are an important determining factor. He noted that in many countries reimbursement systems prioritise preventive measures, while in several CIS countries prophylaxis programmes have long been recognised. However, he emphasised that implementation and monitoring remain significant challenges. In his view, the effectiveness of such programmes depends on cooperation with governments, the establishment of measurable indicators and clear mechanisms to evaluate outcomes.

Ilshat Yuldashev further underlined the importance of implementing prevention programmes broadly, including through schools, teachers and parental involvement, and noted that a number of European countries have developed successful approaches for monitoring and controlling these processes.

Katalyn Nagy highlighted the value of stronger exchange of knowledge between working groups, particularly where similar topics are being addressed. She also requested clarification regarding the questionnaire methodology, including which countries had participated and how certain categories of dental professionals had been interpreted. Questions were raised concerning the distinction between general dentists and dental therapists and differences in recognition across countries.

Responding to these questions, Ilshat Yuldashev explained that the questionnaire had been distributed to a selected group of countries, including countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States region. The intention was to compare national systems, educational structures and recognised professional categories and to learn from the experience of other European countries.

He further clarified that terminology differs between jurisdictions and that the classification used in the questionnaire reflected national structures. By way of example, he noted that some countries distinguish between therapeutic, surgical and prosthetic dentists rather than using the category of general dentist.

Edoardo Cavallé observed that professional titles and classifications, including terms such as stomatologist, continue to differ between countries and noted that this broader issue would require discussion in a more appropriate format at a later stage.

The discussion continued on the recognition of dental specialisations and professional terminology across jurisdictions. It was indicated that further guidance and follow-up by the Board would be provided as appropriate.

7.5 Continuing medical education in Dentistry

On behalf of Marzena Dominiak Kinga Grzech-Lesniak delivered a presentation on Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry, focusing on obesity as a shared risk factor affecting both oral and general health. It was highlighted that dental professionals are well positioned to contribute to prevention and early identification due to regular patient contact and their established role in health promotion.

The presentation reviewed current evidence indicating high patient acceptance of obesity-related discussions in dental settings, while identifying barriers such as limited training, time constraints, and the absence of standardized guidance in dental education.

A proposal for a multicentre global questionnaire study was presented with the aim of assessing dentists' knowledge, attitudes, and practices, identifying educational needs, and supporting the integration of obesity prevention into dental care. Kinga Grzech-Lesniak concluded with a call for dentistry to strengthen its role within integrated health care through education and interdisciplinary approaches. (Presentation on Website)

During the discussion, several delegates questioned whether the topic presented fell within the scope of the Working Group on Continuing Medical Education and whether it aligned with the Group's mandate and objectives. Concerns were also raised regarding communication and organisation within the Working Group, including the cancellation of the scheduled meeting, limited information provided to members, and the lack of regular exchanges between meetings.

It was noted that some members had not been informed in advance about changes to the programme and therefore had limited opportunity to prepare or contribute. Suggestions were made to strengthen internal communication channels, including the establishment of a dedicated messaging group and more frequent online meetings.

7.6 Dental Team

Kristjan Gutman presented on behalf of the Dental Team Working Group its new project on bureaucracy and documentation responsibilities within the dental team. The study aims to assess the impact of administrative requirements on clinical practice, workforce development, and professional attractiveness, particularly with regard to young dentists and entrepreneurship.

He reported on preparatory activities undertaken since Shanghai, including one in-person and two online meetings, and presented the structure of a questionnaire (5 topics/50 questions) covering administrative and regulatory requirements in dental practice. The survey will be distributed across member organisations, with preliminary results expected to be presented in Prague in autumn 2026 and a final report planned for spring 2027. (Presentation on Website).

During the discussion, questions were raised regarding the scope and length of the proposed questionnaire and whether its extent was consistent with the project's objective of reducing administrative burden. Concerns were expressed that a large number of questions might limit participation.

In response, it was explained that the questionnaire had been carefully developed to ensure that sufficient and meaningful data could be collected and that reducing the number of questions could compromise the quality and completeness of the analysis. The importance of balancing comprehensiveness with usability was acknowledged.

7.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence

Roman Smucler presented the activities of the Working Group on Digitalisation in Dentistry – E-Health and Artificial Intelligence. The Working Group aims to promote exchange of experience among ERO members, support education in artificial intelligence, share expertise and educational resources, and encourage the practical use of digital technologies in dentistry.

Recent developments in AI since the Shanghai meeting were highlighted, including advances in local AI models, specialised patient-oriented applications, and AI agents for practice management. The Working Group announced three initiatives before summer:

- a pilot webinar for dentists on the practical use of AI in dental practice,
- a webinar for officers and representatives focused on educational exchange, and
- the creation of a shared list of international speakers in AI and digital dentistry.

The Working Group will hold a further online meeting to finalise the webinar programme and coordinate communication with the Board and National Dental Associations. (Presentation on Website)

7.8 Oral Health & General Health

Mick Armstrong presented the work of the Working Group on Oral Health and General Health and provided a brief recap of recent activities, including discussions with the European Commission on prevention measures related to sugar and tobacco. He also reported on the results of the prevention survey conducted between January and February 2026, which received responses from 21 countries and dental associations across the ERO region, while noting that broader participation had been hoped for.

The survey demonstrated considerable variation across member countries regarding national oral health strategies, oral health literacy initiatives, preventive programmes, and support for vulnerable and ageing populations. Examples included public health campaigns, school-based programmes, preventive services, outreach activities, and collaboration with other healthcare professionals. The results also reflected differences in the composition and role of oral healthcare teams and in the integration of oral health within broader health policies.

The Working Group announced plans to compile the survey findings into an online resource to support member associations in advocacy and exchange of good practices. Future activities will include finalisation of the web-based presentation of results and the definition of future priorities. (Presentation on Website)

Mick Armstrong informed the plenary that he would step successor. Marion Dordain has offered to succeed him.

7.9 Approval of the reports of Working groups

Edoardo Cavallé asks the delegates to approve the reports of the Working Groups.

All reports were **approved unanimously**.

The President calls on the chairpersons of the working groups to please report any changes to the membership of their groups to the ERO Secretariat so that the list can be kept up to date.

C. 8 Member countries

National reports and discussion

Doris Seiz delivered a comparative overview of dental systems and professional associations across Europe, with a focus on governance structures, healthcare systems, common challenges and future developments.

She informed the delegates that, despite national differences, several common trends can be observed across European countries. These include:

- generally stable governance frameworks and the advisory role of professional associations in health policy;
- predominantly mixed public–private healthcare systems with varying levels of public coverage for dental care;
- persistent inequalities in access to dental services, particularly in rural and underserved areas;
- workforce challenges, including regional shortages, market saturation in certain countries and generational changes within the profession;
- increasing financial and regulatory pressures affecting the sustainability of dental practices and healthcare systems.

The presentation further highlighted developments in education and training, including continued emphasis on professional development and the growing integration of digital technologies.

The Assembly noted that digitalisation and the introduction of artificial intelligence in dentistry are progressing across Europe, although implementation levels differ significantly

between countries. Discussion also addressed opportunities and challenges related to digital health, data protection and ethical considerations.

Attention was drawn to the growing presence of corporate dentistry in certain countries and differing national approaches to addressing commercialisation and safeguarding professional independence.

The presentation also provided an overview of activities organised in connection with World Oral Health Day, demonstrating broad engagement across participating countries through awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, public events and preventive activities.

Key discussion points included:

- regulation and quality assurance in dentistry, including recognition of professional qualifications;
- digitalisation and technological innovation, including AI and electronic health records; and
- economic and political frameworks affecting the dental profession.

It was noted that common challenges across countries continue to include rising operational costs, unequal access to care and increasing administrative burden.

The importance of continued cooperation and exchange of experience at European level was underlined. (Presentation on Website)

A discussion followed on the common challenges identified across European dental systems, with particular focus on financial pressures, regulation and quality assurance, digital transformation, generational change within the profession and access to care.

Reference was made to the 2023 Global Health Status Report, and questions were raised regarding the reliability and interpretation of certain data presented. It was suggested that relevant figures and underlying data should be reviewed where necessary.

The discussion highlighted the importance of professional associations taking an active role in maintaining standards and ensuring quality assurance in dentistry. It was underlined that responsibility for professional regulation and safeguarding standards cannot be delegated solely to external actors and requires continued engagement by the profession itself.

Several participants stressed the value of stronger cooperation between countries and greater exchange of experience to address shared challenges.

Attention was drawn to the role of education and training, including the importance of strengthening digital competencies and integrating relevant skills development within dental education.

A substantial part of the discussion focused on generational change within the profession and the challenges faced by young dentists in establishing independent practices. Financial barriers, access to funding, administrative burden and changing professional expectations were identified as contributing factors.

Examples of initiatives supporting young dentists were shared, including mentoring and networking approaches designed to facilitate connections between newly qualified and experienced practitioners.

Participants also discussed changing expectations among younger generations regarding professional life and work-life balance, while emphasising the need to maintain access to high-quality care and preserve professional independence.

Concerns were expressed regarding the growth of corporate dentistry and potential consequences related to commercial pressures, ownership structures and accountability. The importance of ensuring that professional responsibility remains clearly identifiable was highlighted.

Representatives of younger dentists emphasised the need for dialogue across generations and noted that mutual understanding is required to address evolving expectations and strengthen engagement within the profession.

The discussion also underlined the importance of prevention and oral health promotion from an early age. Examples of preventive programmes and educational initiatives targeting children and schools were shared as effective approaches to improving long-term oral health outcomes.

Doris Seiz concluded that these issues represent complex and interconnected challenges and encouraged continued dialogue and cooperation across associations and generations.

C.8a Manual of European Dental Practice - Update

Simona Dianišková conveyed greetings from Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg, who was unfortunately unable to attend this assembly and presented an update on the development of the 6th Edition of the European Manual of Dental Practice. She informed the delegates that the revision process started in 2022 and that the publication title has been changed from EU Manual of Dental Practice to European Manual of Dental Practice, reflecting its expanded geographical scope and inclusion of EU-, EEA- and countries from the wider European and Asian region (ERO members).

The revised edition introduces a more concise structure with increased emphasis on country chapters and is intended to function as a living document with regular updates.

Simona Dianišková reported on the progress achieved to date, including updates of existing country chapters, development of new ERO country chapters, and ongoing work on the General Section. Finalised chapters have already been made available on the CED website, and publication of the complete Manual is expected in the coming months.

The Assembly took note of the update.

She expressed appreciation for the cooperation with ERO and for its financial contribution to the project.

Members were invited to continue contributing to future updates and to liaise with the CED Policy Officer, Clara Luciani, as appropriate. (Presentation on Website)

Edoardo Cavallé highlighted the importance of maintaining the Manual as an up-to-date resource and thanked Simona Dianišková for her work and presentation.

C. 9 Report from EDSA

Representatives of the European Dental Students' Association (EDSA), Adam Javorček and Anna Fedorova, presented an overview of the organisation and its activities.

They informed the delegates that EDSA, founded in 1988 and currently based in Dublin, represents dental students from more than 180 dental schools across 35 countries. The organisation aims to provide opportunities for students beyond national borders and to strengthen engagement at European level.

Adam Javorček outlined EDSA's main objectives, including:

- fostering networking and collaboration among dental students;
- promoting access and inclusivity;
- supporting research and innovation;
- advocating for students' interests; and
- advancing oral health promotion.

An overview was provided of EDSA's activities, including general meetings, mobility and volunteering projects, prevention campaigns, research competitions, educational webinars, publications and policy initiatives.

Particular emphasis was placed on activities supporting international exchange, student engagement in public health initiatives, scientific development and professional networking. They reported that EDSA also develops policy positions and evidence-based recommendations with the objective of representing students' perspectives, contributing to discussions on dental education and supporting leadership development among future dental professionals.

Adam Javorček highlighted the importance of continued cooperation between students, professional associations and other stakeholders to support the future development of the profession. (Presentation on Website)

At the opening of the discussion, appreciation was expressed for the cooperation between ERO and EDSA and for the continued engagement of dental students at European level. Azamat Baigulakov asked which gaps EDSA identifies in dental education across Europe and how cooperation between ERO and EDSA could contribute to more harmonised and higher-quality educational standards.

In response, Adam Javorček explained that one of the challenges observed relates to differences in approaches between younger and more experienced generations, including variations in clinical practice and educational exposure. He noted that student organisations can help address certain gaps where local educational opportunities are limited by providing additional educational activities, meetings and exchange platforms.

Regarding future cooperation with ERO, Adam Javorček indicated that collaboration should be guided by identified needs, survey outcomes and areas where EDSA activities and ERO priorities intersect. He underlined the importance of maintaining direct communication channels in order to identify shortcomings and jointly develop appropriate responses.

Enzo Bondioni welcomed the presentation and asked why education was not more explicitly reflected among EDSA's stated objectives. In response, Adam acknowledged the importance of education within EDSA's work and noted that feedback received from members had highlighted this as an area for further development and stronger visibility in future activities.

Enzo Bondioni also requested clarification regarding EDSA's advocacy activities and how advocacy is implemented in practice within a student organisation.

Adam Javorček explained that advocacy takes place through several channels, including cooperation with professional associations, development of policy papers, publications and communication activities. He noted that advocacy forms an underlying component of many EDSA initiatives.

Anna Fedorova further clarified that EDSA does not position itself as a political actor but rather focuses on representing students' perspectives and supporting improvements in dental education across Europe. She referred to EDSA surveys and policy work as tools for identifying challenges, facilitating comparison between countries and contributing to discussion and awareness rather than political positioning.

Mick Armstrong welcomed the breadth of EDSA's activities and raised the question of career intentions among dental students, referring to findings from a recent study indicating a strong preference for specialisation and limited interest in careers in dental public health. He asked whether EDSA had additional information or planned further research in this area. In response, Adam Javorček acknowledged the importance of dental public health and noted that this topic had been addressed in educational activities involving academic contributors. He indicated that while influencing career choices remains complex, EDSA recognises the importance of encouraging awareness and engagement in this field.

C. 10 FDI matters - report

Nikolai Sharkov, FDI President, presented an overview of FDI's recent advocacy activities and key developments at global level in support of the organisation's vision of achieving optimal oral health worldwide.

He informed the assembly of FDI's advocacy impact during 2025, with particular emphasis on progress achieved in international policy discussions. It was highlighted that oral health was included for the first time in the Political Declaration adopted at the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Mental Health, reflecting increased recognition of oral diseases as part of the broader NCD agenda and reinforcing the message that oral health is an integral part of overall health.

Nikolai Sharkov also addressed developments under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The delegates were informed that agreement had been reached on a global phase-out date of 2034 for dental amalgam. It was noted that advocacy efforts contributed to maintaining a balanced approach, including provisions intended to safeguard patient needs and access to care.

An update was provided on FDI's continued advocacy work in 2026, including engagement with the WHO Executive Board and policy discussions relating to non-communicable diseases, primary healthcare, digital health, health workforce issues and broader health system development.

Nikolai Sharkov further informed about ongoing advocacy activities concerning regulatory and public health matters, including engagement with international consultations and participation in the World Health Assembly.

He also highlighted upcoming FDI initiatives and opportunities for engagement, including activities linked to oral health promotion and preparations for the FDI World Dental Congress to be held in Prague in September 2026 for which he is hoping on a very good participation. He encouraged all persons present to make publicity wherever possible. (Presentation on Website)

C. 11 Next meetings

Plenary session 2026 (Autumn - Prague)

Roman Šmucler gave a short presentation on the city of Prague and invited all participants to attend the World Dental Congress to be held at the beginning of September.

Azamat Baigulakov raised a question regarding accessibility of the scientific sessions, noting that participation may be limited for attendees who do not speak English, and asked whether AI-supported translation could be considered.

In response, Roman Šmucler informed the Assembly that multilingual arrangements are foreseen.

Edoardo Cavallé further informed the delegates that the date of the plenary session in Prague will be announced in due course, as organisational preparations are ongoing. He added that Working Group meetings are also expected to take place.

Plenary session 2027 (Spring)

A video presentation from the Croatian Dental Chamber was shown in support of its candidature to host the 2027 Spring Plenary Session.

Hrvoje Pezo provided a brief presentation and additional remarks.

As no alternative candidature was submitted, the Assembly **approved** the proposal without a formal vote.

The dates will be communicated as soon as possible.

C.13 Miscellaneous

Oleg Gladkov informs that the pictures and video of this assembly will soon be on a link to be distributed by the secretariat.

Before adjourning the session Hans de Vries takes the floor. He thanked the Board and the local organisers for the successful assembly. He suggested that financial documents, including the annual report and balance sheet, as well as the list of participants, be circulated at least two weeks before future meetings to facilitate preparation and networking. He further recommended that investment of financial reserves should be based on independent expert advice and noted broader concerns regarding financial sustainability and declining membership in professional associations.

Hans de Vries also thanked the Liberal Dental Practice Working Group for the opportunity to participate as an observer and referred to the discussion on corporate dentistry and private investment in dental care. He emphasised the importance of maintaining quality of care and raised the question whether stronger long-term obligations for investors in healthcare practices could be considered at European level.

In response, the President indicated that this topic would be included on the agenda for further discussion.

D Close of the meeting

Adjournment

Edoardo Cavallé adjourns the meeting with thanks to the interpreters for their great work, the delegates for their collaboration and his board members for their support.

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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