

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: FRANCE

Association: Association dentaire française, ADF

Venue: BAKU **Year:** 2016

I. Changes within the association and in its organisation

- On 8 April, the ADF will hold its triennial elections for office in the Association's governing bodies.
- The ADF offices moved to a new address on 14 March: 22 avenue de la Grande Armée, 75017 Paris, France.

II. Trends and developments

In professional politics

Nothing to report

In health politics

New Health law (*Loi de santé*)

The law destined to "modernise our health system" was published in the Official Journal on 27 January 2016. It took two years for the French Government to impose the text, which many organisations of private health professionals opposed. One of the key measures of the new law was the generalisation to all patients of the third-party payment system ("*Tiers payant*") starting from 2017 (meaning that patients would no longer have to pay upfront the portion of the fee that they would later be reimbursed by the national health insurance system). The measure was finally rejected by the French Constitutional Council, thus rendering optional the use of the third-party payment system. This is a half-victory for the French Confederation of dental unions (CNSD) who fought the measure because there was no guarantee that this portion would effectively be paid.

The dental profession also spoke out against the total absence in the law of provisions for improving the prevention of oral diseases.

A vast conference on health (*Grande Conférence de Santé*) was held on 11th February on the initiative of the French Prime Minister to re-establish a dialogue with the healthcare professions on the issues of education and practice conditions. The conference resulted in a roadmap of 22 measures of which the most important deal with the training of the healthcare professions.

One of the measures, designed to improve the maternity benefits solely of female private doctors who adhere to the national health agreement ("*médecin conventionné*") and charge only the flat fee fixed by the national health insurance fund ("*honoraires opposables*"), gave rise to very strong reactions from other private practitioners who demanded that the measure become immediately applicable to all healthcare professions.

In educational politics

Vocational training

The CLESI University

Despite the many actions conducted by the dental profession and the resulting decree on private higher education institutions published in 2014, both the private CLESI institutes established in France have managed – using procedural tricks – to remain open, with registered students now in their 4th year of studies. The CLESI institutes are currently being investigated following a complaint for fraud filed by the French Confederation of dental unions (CNSD).

Continuing education

Four years only after it was implemented, the new Continuing Professional Development system is running out of money.

A complete overhaul of the CPD governance is currently underway. Among other things, it entails for all health care professionals, including dentists, the move from an annual CPD obligation to a triennial obligation.

In the insurance system (public and private health insurance schemes)

Compulsory insurance (the national health insurance fund – *Assurance maladie*)

Nothing to report, except that the dental profession is still waiting for the revaluation of their flat fees.

III. Further information (activities, ...)

Low-cost centres

So called "low-cost" centres are again making headline news ... this time however, not with alluring promises but with the painful return to reality of many patients. To journalists who no longer hesitate to declare the whole matter a scandal, the dental profession points out that it has been denouncing this perversion of dental practice since the very beginning and has launched many legal actions.

On 11th February, the headline of a Parisian daily finally woke the conscience of the media who at last took an interest in the deviant practices of these low-cost centres, a health scandal brought to light by the closing down of a number of these establishments.

Complaints from deceived patients have multiplied, ranging from overtreatment and mutilations to fraud – a number of accusations that have triggered strong media coverage in the written press and on television and the radio.

The scandal happened despite the fact that the dental profession, and the French confederation of dental unions (CNSD) in particular, had been warning the public authorities for many years about the development of these exclusively profit-oriented centres; despite the fact also that it launched many legal actions to fight the opening – facilitated by a lack of legal framework – of these shady establishments,

The CNSD has reaffirmed its stance against these scandalous, purely commercial enterprises which harm the profession. It is deeply sorry that patients should find themselves in such a dreadful situation because of these predictable events. The confederation has appointed one of its officials to liaise with the victims of these low-cost centres, who have already set up local victim groups.

Dentists are popular!

A study conducted at the initiative of the French governing body for dentistry (*Ordre national des chirurgiens-dentistes*) reveals that dentists are popular among the French people. Public approval ratings of 87% show that patients have a good image of the profession, and 95.5% of those who went to see their dentist in the past couple of years declare that they were satisfied with their visit.

The ADF 2016 Annual Dental Meeting (*Congrès ADF 2016*) will be held from Tuesday 22 until Saturday 26 November 2016 at the Palais des Congrès de Paris, Porte Maillot. This year, the chosen topic for the scientific programme is "Your health, our priority" ("*Votre santé, notre priorité*")

On the occasion of the 2015 Meeting, the ADF published **three guides in the *Les Dossiers de l'ADF* series**, on the following topics:

- Technical Assessment Grid for the Prevention of Health-Care Related Infections
- Cone-beam Computed Tomography
- Positive List of Dental Disinfectants – new edition