

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: ITALY

Association: ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE DENTISTI ITALIANI

Venue: BAKU

Year: 2016

Changes in the association and its organisation.

No changes in the organization.

However, on May 27-28 ANDI will held its 10° Congresso Politico. The Congress will discuss and vote a document outlining the Association's policies for the next two years, directed towards its members and institutions, and related to the many and complex situations affecting the dental profession.

Trends and developments:

Tax "Pre-filled" form:

In March 2015 the draft of the bill extending to health professionals the obligations required for the compilation of the "730 (tax form)" started to circulate. The bill requires physicians to forward to the tax authorities, via the "Health Card", the costs incurred by patients. Data, which the will then use to prepare a pre-filled tax form to be sent to citizens.

This rule was strongly contested by ANDI reporting to political world the bill's inconsistencies, seeking to amend it, disputing the principle that in order to give a service to some citizens (those who use the "730") the government delegates other citizens (dentists, in our case) to carry this task instead of doing it with his employees and means.

ANDI claims the rule as unnecessary, since Italian dentists, through other means, are already sending the required data to the tax authorities. In addition, the new formalities are not sustainable, since in many cases they would require structural/personnel adjustment that dental practices cannot stand.

On 19 October 2015, ANDI National Council unanimously resolved to mandate ANDI Board to appeal the bill before the Regional Administrative Court. Unfortunately, the Court will rule the appeal a number of months after the expiring date of the obligation!

However, while waiting for the response from the Regional Administrative Court, the intense activity of ANDI has led to the suspension of sanctions due in case of formal errors. The latter case would have meant a fine from €100 to 50.000 for each error and for each invoice.

In connection with the turmoil caused by the bill, a national demonstration has been held in Rome, in November 2015, organized by FNOMCeO and all the physicians unions, ANDI among them, calling for action in support of the right to health, against the regional fragmentation and against bureaucratic rules that penalize more and more the doctor-patient relationship.

A follow-up event, has been organized on December 16 when a national strike was declared in defense of the National Health System from the decreasing of financial resources and in defense of the "medical role" besieged by other professionals and obliged to bureaucratic requirements that have nothing to do with the task of diagnosis and treatment.

“Dental Chains”

After the recent scandal that involved the capital companies who ran the public dentistry in Lombardy, the arrest of the Vitaldent Group management in Spain, the Italian TV service on the bankruptcy of a large national company, ANDI has proposed its own amendments to the “bill on competition” currently in discussion at the Senate. The proposed amendments, if approved, will allow to extend the guarantees that patients have when treated in a private practice, to patients treated in a dental chain.

ANDI claims *that* every company in the dental field and each dental facility must appoint a registered dentist as medical director. He will have the responsibility of operating, exclusively, the center assigned to him. In addition, the company should have two third of its share capital owned by registered dentists.

This way the control must be in the hands of persons that follow ethical and professional criteria and not, instead, to those of pure investors.

The Association's activities did not go unnoticed and ANDI has been the subject of heavy accusations by those Companies, by means of paid pages on the major national newspapers,

who accused ANDI to carry on its action purely for corporate interests by asserting the better quality of dental treatments delivered in private practices. ANDI, supported financially by its members, was able to respond through the same channels stating the true reasons of what ANDI claims and expect.

We will see if the Senate will incorporate instances ANDI in the coming days.

Further information (activities, concerns).

Lifestyles, nutrition and oral health. ANDI project in collaboration with EXPO2015

Proper nutrition is the basis for a healthy life. It also affects the oral health of the individual and not only in terms of caries. To emphasize that healthy lifestyles and nutrition determine the oral health of the individual and thus the overall health was the Workshop organized by ANDI and ANDI Foundation at the Royal Palace in Milan on July 3 as part of the initiatives linked to EXPO 2015.

A scientific event, which was the first act of the ANDI project, related to good nutrition and lifestyles. It has involved dentists of ANDI for the following six months, promoting a good nutrition among their patients and at the same time to bring the focus of public opinion and institutions of the central role of dentists on the issues promoted by EXPO"

Month of Dental Prevention

The 35th edition of Month of Dental Prevention was held in October 2015, an event that, over the years, has given rise to various prevention projects, highlighting the central role and purposeful that our Association has always played in the Italian dental panorama.

ANDI in partnership with Mentadent, decided to modify the program of this edition, with the aim of giving a more central role to the Association and to the dentist ANDI, as a promoter of prevention and oral and general health in our country.

The first novelty is the increased visibility to ANDI and its Members given in radio and television campaigns dedicated to the initiative, as well as the activity of support from the press both at launch and in subsequent periods.

The spot will invite citizens to join the program, making a free visit to a dentist's practice and programming, if necessary, a proper prevention path at fixed rates.

The "**FIXO**" project has officially started after an agreement signed by the Chairman of the Conference of Deans of Graduating Courses in Dentistry, the President of the College of University Professors in Dental disciplines) and the President of ANDI.

The goal of the project is to encourage the entry of young (up to 29 years old) newly graduated dentists in the practices of ANDI members in order to practise and possibly lay the groundwork for a future and lasting collaboration. The agreement provides that the new graduates be remunerated for their work, and that employers receive an 'employment bonus' depending on whether the "practitioner" is engaged full or part time.

February 2016: The Supreme Court (order no. 2468/16) has upheld the appeal of a dentist who had been sentenced to the payment of royalties to the "Società Consortile Fonografici" for having spread music in by means of "phonograms subject to a privative rule".

The Supreme Court stated that, due to the limited number of people present in the practice's premises, the dental practice cannot be considered as "public" and consequently the fee is not due. The judges of the Supreme Court referred to the earlier judgment of the European Court of Justice, which ANDI had appealed to defend the rights of its own member condemned to the payment of royalties for music played in the studio.

Also in that case, the European Court of Justice ruled that the professional practice was not a public place and therefore not subject to the payment of the fee claimed.