



## **ERO-Plenary Session 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, Bucharest, Romania**

### ***Minutes***

#### **A Welcome**

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

Michael Frank welcomes those present and is pleased that it is finally possible to hold a meeting face-to-face. He thanks Paula Perlea and the Romanian Society of Stomatology for organizing this plenary session and for the uncomplicated handling of the postponement of this event due to the pandemic, which should have taken place last year. He also welcomes those delegates who are connected online.

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

Michael Frank welcomes Nick Sharkov (Treasurer FDI), representing the unfortunately impeded FDI President, Ihsane Ben Yahya, Susie Sanderson (Speaker FDI), Gerhard Seeberger (former FDI and ERO President), Anna Lella (former ERO President) and the EDSA representatives. Michèle Aerden (former FDI President) and the two former ERO Presidents, Patrick Hescot and Philippe Rusca, unfortunately had to excuse themselves.

##### **A.3 Greetings of the president of the Romanian Society of Stomatology**

Paula Perlea welcomes all those present. She expresses her joy at being able to hold the event in Bucharest after all and thanks ERO and the Secretariat for their support in the organisation.

#### **B Presentation by the President of the Romanian Society of Stomatology**

Paula Perlea, President of the Romanian Society of Stomatology briefly presents her country, her city (Bucharest) and her dental society. See presentation on the website [Bucharest 2022 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org).

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

##### **C.1 Roll call / Establishment of the quorum**

Taner Yücel presented the list of those in attendance. Out of 66 possible delegates, 46 are present, thus the quorum is achieved.

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

There are no objections to the agenda - it is adopted unanimously.

##### **C.3 Approval of the minutes of the online plenary session 2021**

No addenda or amendments were requested. The minutes are adopted unanimously.

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

The big topic of this legislature was the pandemic. Meetings have taken place, but only virtually. Michael Frank had a lot of contact with the representatives of the different national societies, but it is not the same as sitting face to face. He would have imagined his presidency differently and hopes that his successor will have it better.

Many events have been cancelled, many planned projects could not be carried out. However, maybe next year another big congress will take place. The President had contacted WHO and good discussions took place. COVID then put an end to this and he hopes that these relations will now be resumed. In 2020, the ERO Plenary Session was cancelled altogether and in 2021 it was held online. This was a good experience and, with the exception of a few technical problems, worked very well. It was also possible to strengthen the cooperation with the CED. Since certain projects are running in parallel and various people are active in the committees/working groups of both associations this cooperation should be continued and intensified.

Ukraine - this conflict was and is a shock for everyone. That is why a resolution was published quite quickly together with the CED. Michael Frank is of the opinion that one cannot meet here and say nothing about it. Therefore, another, second resolution has been prepared. He thinks it is our duty, here where all delegates are present, to speak out again and hopes that everyone will support the resolution.

Michael Frank also refers to the letter from the President of the Ukrainian Dental Association, which everyone has in hand. She asks for support and the representatives of the national associations should take this letter home with them and help their Ukrainian colleagues as much as possible.

He pays tribute to Hans Schrangl, a much appreciated and well-known colleague, who sadly passed away far too early last year.

Michael Frank introduces the representatives of EDSA (European Dental Students Association) and gives the floor to Simona Dianišková. She praises the good and uncomplicated cooperation with EDSA. Together they had worked out a "memorandum of understanding". The support for research projects was interrupted in the last two years due to the pandemic. This year, however, a competition has been announced. Papers can be submitted on the topics "Digitalisation in dentistry/Dental treatment challenges in special care dentistry services/Online, present or hybrid continuing education in Dentistry/Priorities in postgraduate education of dentistry graduates".

The review of the submitted papers will take place in summer and the awardees will be presented at the Autumn General Assembly in Geneva. These papers will certainly also be interesting for our working groups. She also praises the cooperation with Henk Donker in the joint AMR working group (ERO/CED). This was very efficient; the two brochures are ready; and she hopes to be able to realise further projects together.

Doniphan Hammer (on behalf of the French delegation) had certain reservations about the present resolution concerning the Ukraine conflict. He asks for some time to read and discuss it. Oliver Zeyer also suggests that the English translation be checked and then voted on tomorrow.

Michael Frank remarks that it cannot be said enough how terrible this all is and he very much hopes that this resolution will be adopted by the delegates.

#### **C.5 Report from EDSA President**

In place of the President, who unfortunately could not participate, Ömer Faruk Sönmez thanks for the invitation to attend this meeting and to present EDSA to this assembly. He also thanks ERO for its support.

Christa Serban presents the EDSA programme and refers in particular to the prevention campaigns, the efforts in the field of research and the activities on social media (see presentation on the ERO website).

Michael Frank and Oliver Zeyer thank the EDSA representatives and compliment them on their work.

## **C.6 Finances**

### **C.6.1 Accounts 2021**

Oliver Zeyer explains the accounts. The expenses for the Board and Secretariat have remained unchanged for a long time. It would have been nice to spend a little more on the working groups, but activities were limited here too due to the pandemic. The costs for the virtual Plenary Session are not less than for a assembly in presence. The deficit of €36,900 is not least due to the fact that membership fees have been halved in the last two years.

### **C.6.2 Outstanding fees**

625€ are still outstanding, but Oliver Zeyer is confident that these will also be paid.

### **C.6.3 Report of the auditor**

Enrico Lai reads his report and confirms that the accounts are kept properly and that the balances and entries correspond. He recommends the acceptance of the accounts. The accounts were then unanimously approved and the Board discharged.

### **C.6.4 Appointment of the auditor**

Enrico Lai stands for another term of office as auditor and is confirmed with applause. The Treasurer thanks him for his work.

## **C. 6.5 Budget 2022**

The budget provides for a return to the normal membership fees. The Board hopes that the working group will be more active and again makes a sum of € 16,000 available for possible projects. The "EDSA Prize" is to be financed from the provisions. It was also planned to revise the website. There is no offer yet, but a certain amount will be necessary for this. Oliver Zeyer presents a budget that foresees a profit of € 4'650 and asks the delegates to approve it.

The budget 2022 is accepted unanimously.

## **C.7 Presentation of candidates (ERO Board elections mandate 2022-2025)**

Katalin Nagy, who only recently submitted her candidacy, has decided to withdraw it. She concluded that she would like to gain some more experience as delegate in the Plenary session.

Paula Perla, Oliver Zeyer, Edoardo Cavallé and Taner Yücel present their candidatures.

## **C.8 Working groups**

After the virtual meeting between the ERO Board and the ERO working group chairs last year, this meeting has now taken place in presence. The aim is to find out where we are, where the groups should go and where the interfaces between the WGs are. These meetings have proven to be very enriching and should be continued.

It makes sense that the terms of office of the WGs are the same as those of the ERO Board. Therefore, the national associations will receive a letter in the near future with the aim of confirming or nominating the members of the working groups. The working groups will then determine the chairperson(s). The working groups will be presented and confirmed in their new composition at the Autumn Plenary Session.

### **C.8.1 Ageing population**

Henk Donker reports on the activities of the working group. The toolkit called "Don't forget the mouth! Why oral hygiene is important" is now completed. It exists in English, but can be translated into any language. It is also available as an application for social media and mobile phones. In the future, the working group will also focus on older patients living at home, in need of protection and care, but unable to perform their own oral hygiene and/or visit a dentist regularly. (See presentation on the ERO website).

Henk Donker's second topic is the "Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance". Two brochures, one for dentists and one for the general public were realised. Again, there is the printed version and the one for social media. Instructions for the use of the leaflet in social media are being prepared and will be available to member associations soon.

He thanks the members of the working group for their good cooperation.

### **C.8.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach once again takes on the topic of "Opening or taking over dental practices by investment companies". In recent years, this practice has increased exorbitantly and seems unstoppable. The reasons for this are well known. On the part of the investors, there are good profits to be made, and on the part of the dentists, a change in expectations regarding their professional future (work-life balance) is a reason to strive for such new forms. The feminisation of the profession is also likely to support this development. The negative effects have been pointed out by the working group in several resolutions. Individual examples from practice show that the quality of treatment is questioned, a tendency to overtreatment can be observed and the patient's right to choose a doctor is partially suspended. All agree that dentists should be able to live from their work, but investor participation does not seem to be the right solution. The WG will repeat the survey from 2016 and hopes to use it to show the development over the last few years. We are curious to see what the findings will be. Doing nothing is definitely not an option. We do not want to give up the freedom to practise our profession. It is worth defending it.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach would like to retire from a career in professional politics after 16 years. He has enjoyed the work very much. He hopes that he was able to present his heartfelt concern and to sensitise and motivate the people present for this purpose.

The audience thanks him with a long applause. Michael Frank joins in and thanks him for his many years of commitment.

### **C.8.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities**

Mare Saag begins by thanking the members of the WG. She introduces a new study. This is to find out the opinion of the national dental associations regarding the need for immediate practical dental training after graduation. She thanks those who have already responded and invites the others to still send in their answers. For the preliminary results of the current study, please refer to the presentation on the ERO website.

Katalin Nagy wants to know if there is a difference between "COVID" and "pre-COVID" graduates. The study does not really give any information on this, but Mare Saag thinks there is a difference. Last year's graduates certainly had less clinical experience because many patients also did not keep their appointments. Doniphan Hammer wishes that such studies would be noticed in the member countries. We can make recommendations, but ultimately, they have to be implemented in the individual countries. An accreditation of the training centres and the programmes and thus a harmonisation of standards would be very desirable, thinks Ömer Sönmez from EDSA.

### **C.8.4 Integration**

Vladimer Margvelashvili recalls the aims and objectives of the WG, where the main issue was to improve the role of NDAs in the new democratic countries. It is also about the financial independence of the member associations and the rapid creation and implementation of mandatory continuing education programmes. Another step is the accreditation of basic dental education at universities in the new democratic countries. Together with the health authorities, member associations should be responsible for the quality of dental care and ensure it by means of compulsory continuing education. This requires the support of ERO, also with regard to the creation of specific policy statements that should be submitted as recommended documents to the Ministries of Health in the new democratic countries.

### **C.8.5 Continuing medical education in dentistry**

Hande Sar Sancakli presents the group's work plan, which is based on the "FDI Vision 2030". Here are the three main points:

- Delivering available, affordable and accessible dental services.
- Integrating oral health into the general health agenda
- Building a resilient oral health workforce for sustainable development

Learning models are changing and we need to look for those that deliver the most effective outcomes. E-learning is gaining importance.

Ongoing Plan 2022: A survey should be conducted, especially with regard to students who will be the emerging group in the next few years and will probably have some theoretical and practical gaps in their education. The findings from the survey should help us to find ways to compensate for these gaps and perhaps also provide enough information to be processed in a resolution.

The EDSA representative is very pleased with these plans and the goals set out in the FDI Vision 2030.

### **C.8.6 Dental Team**

"Digitalization and the dental team" is the new topic of the working group, explains Doniphan Hammer. Progress is also unstoppable in this area and the dental team must be able to adapt to it and then also find its way around it. Digitalization has found its way into almost all dental "disciplines". For the patient, for example, simulation is important, new and practical.

New technologies for management, administration and communication are changing dentistry. In order to provide good care, work in better conditions and keep up with developments and the demands of the society, the dental team must evolve.

The use of new technologies is not easy; their introduction in the dental practice requires a certain amount of knowledge to get the best out of them.

The use of new technologies must therefore be integrated into basic and/or continuing education.

Doniphan Hammer reminds us that there are different job profiles and competences for the dental team. It is the updated skills and knowledge of the members of the dental team that will help to develop the dentistry of the future.

ERO strongly recommends its member countries to update the professional and educational standards of the dental professions to meet the challenges of digitalisation in dental practices.

### **C.8.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence**

The working group would like to realise a platform for all member states that would serve as a medium for the exchange of important information about current possibilities in diagnostics, therapy proposals using digital and robotised dentistry. All countries that are members of ERO and possibly all dentists would have the possibility to find position papers and necessary information on this platform.

This will incur costs. These could be partially financed by advertising, possibly courses and congresses. The Board will have to decide on this and also determine who will do the practical work.

It's not about creating a new data collection, explains Michael Frank, but rather to get an overview of what exists in the different countries and to upload the information or documents. However, the data would still belong to the authors. The aim is to make it easier for dentists to search.

There will certainly be many more discussions on this, either in the group or in the plenary meeting.

### **C.8.8 Approval of the reports of the working groups**

The reports of the WG were unanimously accepted and the work of the groups was gratefully acknowledged. The presentations and reports of all working groups can be found on the ERO website [Bucharest 2022 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://www.ero-dental.org)

### **C.9 Member countries**

There were no applications for the admission of new member associations or requests for resignation.

### **National reports / Discussion**

Taner Yücel presents the summary of the national reports. The pandemic, corporate-run dental practices and World Oral Health Day were the big topics (see website).

Michael Frank thanks Taner Yücel for his work. The individual reports are also available on the website.

### **C.10 Elections**

Following the withdrawal of Katalin Nagy's candidacy, one person is available for each post. Michael Frank proposes an open election. According to Jörg Krainhöfner, there are no regulations in this regard in either the FDI or ERO Statutes. Marek Szewczynski objects to an open election.

Marek Szewczynski and Jörg Krainhöfner were then elected as scrutineers and the election was conducted anonymously using ballot papers.

These are the results:

President-elect - 43 ballots cast, Edoardo Cavallè receives 39 votes.

General Secretary - 41 ballots cast, Taner Yücel receives 36 votes

Executive Committee members - 43 ballots cast, Oliver Zeyer receives 43 votes and 43 ballots cast, Paula Perlea receives 42 votes.

Thus, the Board for the term of office 2022-2025 is composed as follows:

Simona Dianišková - President

Edoardo Cavallè - President-elect

Taner Yücel - Secretary General

Oliver Zeyer and Paula Perlea - Board Members

### **C. 11 FDI matters - Report**

Unfortunately, the FDI President was not able to attend, and Nikolai Sharkov took her place and informs us about the most important FDI topics, which can also be found in the presentation (see ERO website).

A big disappointment was certainly the cancellation of this year's World Congress in Mumbai.

### **C.12 Next meetings**

- Plenary Session Autumn 2022 - This will take place in Geneva – 23 September.
- Plenary Session Spring 2023 - A candidature of the Turkish Dental Association has been presented, which is approved. Thus, this PS will take place on 28/29 April 2023 in Istanbul/Turkey. Hande SarSancakly shows a short video at this point.
- Plenary Session Autumn 2023 – possibly in Sidney

### **C.13 Miscellaneous**

Michael Frank re-presents the new version of the resolution on the Ukraine conflict. It was revised with regard to the English language and distributed to everyone by email the evening before.

The penultimate paragraph is still too strong for the French delegation. They would like to have this paragraph deleted and are supported in this demand by the British delegation.

After a short discussion, everybody agrees and so the resolution is adopted after deletion of the penultimate paragraph without any dissenting votes and with one abstention.

It will be distributed to all member associations again with the request to make use of it.

### **C.14 Handing over of the presidency**

Michael Frank - having reached the end of his term of office - thanks his Board for their support and the good cooperation. He enjoyed the "job". Even if Corona did throw a spanner

in the works, he was still able to achieve one or two things. He also thanks Monika Lang, who has been a great support to him with her many years of experience.

Simona Dianišková, for her part, thanks the outgoing President for his excellent leadership. She had learned a lot under him and she will certainly have many memories of this time. She presents Michael Frank with a gift, who in turn hands over the presidential chain to his successor.

It is a great honour for her to take over this office, emphasises Simona Dianišková. She thanks everyone and especially her dental association without its support the assumption of this task would not have been possible.

Finally, thanks were expressed once again for the perfect organisation of this event (to Paula Perlea and team) and the work of the interpreters.

#### **D Close of the meeting - Adjournment**

Michael Frank closes the meeting and wishes everyone a safe return home.

Simona Dianišková  
ERO President

Monika Lang  
Protokoll

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