



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



Minutes of the plenary session held on 24 October 2007 in Dubai U.A.E.

A Welcome / opening of the session

Patrick Hescot greets all participants. A special welcome goes to the delegations from the Netherlands, UK, Estonia and Sweden. He hopes to be able to greet them in Istanbul again - as members of the ERO.

The president makes a short statement about the absence of the Israeli delegation. He received a letter from Dr. Chen, president of IDA, explaining that they obtained only visas for the members of the official delegations, but not for all of those who had registered for the congress. Dr. Chen considered this as unacceptable and that's why no one from Israel is here.

B Agenda of the business meeting

B.1 Roll call – Verification of the quorum

Philippe Rusca reads the names of all those who were registered by their respective national association. This list will be completed as the people come in. He later reports that more than two third of the total number of delegates are present.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved without modifications.

B.3 Approval of the minutes of Moscow

There have been no written modifications regarding the minutes of the Moscow session. Since no one asks to speak the minutes are approved unanimously.

B.4 Reports of the Board

The president announces that there will be some presentations of FDI candidates during this plenary session. They will speak as they arrive.

Patrick Hescot refers to the ERO-Newsletter. There is a small mistake in the September edition on page 3 regarding the dental laboratory technicians. In fact not the dental laboratory technicians, but the clinical dental technicians treat patients in several countries throughout the world.

Comments or modifications regarding the Newsletter are always welcome. If someone would like certain persons to receive the newsletter directly, please give the secretariat their e-mail-addresses for a direct transmission.

Philippe Rusca thinks the ERO website is functioning quite well. The president of course would like all ERO members to be happy with the new site. To achieve this, we need feedback. On request links to other website will be made. Please contact the secretariat.

The General Secretary is very satisfied about ERO's financial situation. Almost all the member countries have paid their dues. Details will of course follow for the plenary session in spring 2008.

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B.5 Working groups

Prevention

In his introduction Gerhard Seeberger emphasises the importance of prevention and prevention programs. Prevention is not only an investment in oral health but in general health.

Denis Bourgeois presents the goals of the WG, which are the promotion of a European day of oral health prevention, contribution to monitoring of oral health and involvement of the profession in early screening and prevention of oral cancer. The European Day of Oral Health Prevention is intended to disseminate to the political authorities the health policy of ERO, to show the proficiency of the organisation and its unity and dynamism at the service of prevention, to inform and involve the dentists and - last but not least - to make the population aware of the necessity of prevention. If things develop as planned this European Oral Health Day will take place on September 12, 2008. By taking part in the EGOHID-Survey (European Global Oral Health Indicators Development) ERO will contribute to the Quality of Oral Health Surveillance. Having the best quality information will help to improve the performance of the health system, lead to a better definition of health policies and favours decisions in its organisation, funding and professional demography. The whole project will take some time and should be finished within a period of about 2 ½ years. The WG is further trying to make the ERO dental associations aware of the importance to adopt a frame statement on prevention of oral cancer and to guarantee the efficiency of preventions measures of oral cancer.

These are no easy tasks and all member associations are asked to participate in these projects, to give their opinion and feedback.

Parity

Since the new chairwoman, Anna Lella, is not here, Bartolomeo Griffa reports on this WG. The work Simona Dianiskova and this WG did was very important and should be continued. Since there are quite big differences in the health and social organisations of the ERO member countries a comparison among them is nearly impossible to achieve. Therefore a subdivision of the countries in homogeneous groups (homogeneous not in the sense of economical situation, but who acknowledges the EEC laws and who does not) shall be made. This would then allow us to compare among countries with the same features and show us in what ways ERO can be of help to the different member associations. This means a new questionnaire has to be created which will be as simple in the wording as possible. But beforehand the WG will collect all information and documents that already exists. The WG is looking forward to a good cooperation with all member associations.

On behalf of the German delegation Ralf Wagner expresses to be satisfied with the new direction this WG is taking.

Education

The working group "Education" is actually focussing on two major points: competencies and abilities of the general dental practitioner and basic dental education. On behalf of the chairman of the group, Alex Mersel, Yamalik Nermin explains their goals.

The general dental practitioner gains competencies during the term of basic dental education and should maintain or even improve them throughout its professional career. This is important in order to comply with the broad professional responsibilities, to keep up with the changing needs and demands of patients and public, to maintain the trust in the profession and to provide safe, quality, evidence-based and

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ethical oral health care to all members of the society under any circumstances. Therefore there must be a continuous development of oral health care and treatment, a better understanding of the interaction between oral and general health, an easy spreading and quick renewal of knowledge and information. A new definition of professionalism forces us to emphasise on competencies and continuing professional development. Basic dental education must broaden and become more diverse within and outside the "dental arena". The WG aims to direct the interests to the professional competencies as an outcome of basic dental education and new driving forces that put more and more pressure on the dental profession.

Vjekoslav Yerolimov presents the WG proposal regarding the competences of the modern EU dentist who should have a blend of knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate for a general practitioner, know when to refer a patient to a specialist, have self-awareness of a continuum in the competency spectrum. As for the profile a modern EU dentist should have a broad education, be sufficiently trained in dental science, have good communication skills and sufficient knowledge in ICT, be a team-worker and prepared for LLL (live long learning), be able to use a problem-solving approach regarding evidence-based oral health care and last but not least be aware of the changing needs and demands of the patients.

The document that will emanate from these considerations is going to be very political. The working group will continue to work on it.

Liberal dental practice in Europe

After a short introduction by Philippe Rusca Voicu David comments on the work of his group. Their main subject for the time being is the resolution regarding external interference in dental practice. The increasing numbers of commercial non-professional corporations which try to open, own and manage dental clinics call for a statement. Its aim is to express ERO's strong objection to the interference of external providers in the delivery of dental care. This resolution states the disadvantages of an external interference which endanger the special relationship between patient and dentist and would, in the long run, jeopardize health in general. Voicu David thanks all who participated in this work and hopes to have the support of the plenary session.

Peter Engel is very much in favour of this resolution. But he remarks that in line 4 of the resolution reference is made to outside investors not applying to ethical standards that would be a potential disadvantage for dentists and patients. Would this mean that outside investors applying to ethical standards would not be considered as a potential disadvantage?

The introduction of the word "dental" (dental ethical standards) is suggested. Or would it be best to delete all between the two commas (who do not apply to ethical standards)? Further suggestion: the word "potential" might be replaced by "possible".

Wolfgang Sprekels remarks that external interference is not only a problem of the developing countries. These clinics do exist in Germany as well. Many of them will fail, but successors will learn by the mistakes of their predecessors. He is convinced that the dental clinic in the shopping mall is not very far away from now. This is why he thinks that the "may"-formulations are too "spongy". Philippe Rusca admits that these formulations are maybe a bit too polite.

The Austrian delegation fully supports the resolution, more so in view of the pending legal procedure at the European court against pharmacists and a similar case in Austria. The term "ethical standards", even with the proposed additions, is a difficult one. There are proposals to remove it. Since it seems better to have a resolution that will not cause any difficulties regarding its interpretation, the adoption thereof is postponed until the plenary session in Istanbul, where the WG will present a modified version.

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Enlargement

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, the chairman of this WG, is not here because of personal reasons. Vladimir Sadovsky therefore comments on a survey regarding dental education, congresses and exhibitions that has been conducted in the new ERO countries. As the graphics show, there are big differences in the duration of the undergraduate education, in the availability of postgraduate courses, in the organisation and requirements of continuing education courses and the "schedules" of congresses. ERO should try to exert influence on the health ministries to ascertain and improve (where necessary) the continuing education courses. He thinks that only one congress every three years (as in Tajikistan) is not enough. Reference is further made to the unequal distribution of dentists in the different countries, which is often differs quite a lot from European standards. Vladimir Sadovsky mentions that advices from countries with much more experience in these aspects are always very welcome.

The report of the Enlargement WG is followed by two presentations of FDI-candidates (Brent Stanley for the position of President-elect and David Thomson for the position of Treasurer).

Women in Dentistry

Vesna Barac Furtinger refers to the mission of this WG, which is to organize the network of cooperation and support. There are some new members in the WG, but any interested person who wants to join is very welcome. She shows the adopted conclusions from the Moscow meeting. These are: the approach to patients is different due to the psychological profile of women, which means a less technical approach and more emphasis on relationship. Family and motherhood lead to changes in the work and the postgraduate educational habits. There will be more part-time professionals. The WG wishes to set up a file on the ERO website with information about specific female-related questions. A future main topic should be about the woman in dentistry and the impact this will have. The WG further suggests a leadership conference for one of the futures ERO meetings.

Vesna Barac Furtinger shortly states the WG's future issues: the first is about the preferred continuing education, results should be presented in Istanbul. Then there is the subject of woman in the educational process, which will be treated in Rome and further on "the impact of the feminisation in dentistry".

Quality

Gerhard Seeberger gives a short statement about the importance of quality in dentistry and in dental education. Data from different countries as well from overseas were collected; quality models are to be defined. He introduces Philippe Calfon who will inform about the project of a consensus conference.

It is planned to organise a consensus conference on a specific matter every year, explains Philippe Calfon. There will be one referential and support documentation which is to be translated in different languages and should be available on the national association's websites. The subject of the consensus conference 2008 is: pain management. It will consist of 4 presentations and take half a day. Highly esteemed scientists are working on this consensus conference and the outcome of their work will be presented in Istanbul.

Barbara Bergmann-Krauss thanks Philippe Calfon for the interesting report. She is not quite sure, when exactly this presentation will take place. The answer is as follows: first at the plenary session of ERO in April, as a declaration, and then at the Pan European Congress in July, as a scientific session.

Here follows the presentation of FDI-candidate Tin Chun Wong running for the position of Treasurer.

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Dental Team

Bartolomeo Griffa reminds that this group is still about to be built. He invites all persons interested to join this group by contacting the ERO secretariat. Since Simona Dianiskova declared not being able to chair this WG because of overwork in her country, Bartolomeo Griffa has taken over ad interim. According to him the first task of this WG group will be to define the members of the dental team, to find out about their legal positions in the different countries, because without official data there will only be estimations. The actual situation of professional responsibility, legal cases, etc. has to be surveyed. Further the changing forms of the professional practices should be investigated. It would also be interesting to know how many individual or group practices, commercial companies exist and what importance they have in their health organisations.

There lies quite a lot of work ahead of this new WG.

Edoardo Cavallé reminds the audience of the presentation of the dental manual at a CED meeting in London. This could be very useful and some advice could be taken thereof.

This intervention is followed by the presentation of the FDI-candidate Roberto Vianna running for the position of President-elect.

B.6 Information on FDI matters

Gerhard Seeberger reports on a meeting between FDI councillors and representatives from the different regional organisation. He feels very honoured to have been invited to participate together with Patrick Hescot, President of the ERO. Hearing about the different standards and developments in various fields from north to south and from east to west has been very interesting. It once again became very clear how important a good collaboration between the regional organisations is and what an important part the regional organisations can play within the FDI in the future.

B.7 Plenary session 2008 - Istanbul

Taner Yücel looks back on the Moscow meeting, where Istanbul was elected to be host city of the next ERO plenary session. The ERO president has already had the opportunity to have a look at the venue. He invites all to come to Turkey. This invitation is followed by a presentation of by Sarkis Sözkcs, National Liaison Officer of the Turkish Dental Association. He praises the amenities of Istanbul as a city worthwhile of visiting on business and leisure. Among other things a CD is distributed for everybody to take home.

Pan-European Congress

Vladimir Sadovsky explains in a few words the project of the Pan-European Congress. The 1st PEC took place in April 2007 in Moscow and was a joint venture of ERO, Russian Dental Association (RDA) and the European Academy of Education and Promotion (INEP Europe) and consisted of 3 symposiums. While discussing this project it has been suggested to hold the PEC in the same country where the ERO plenary session is organised; in 2008 it will therefore be Turkey. Since the event is organised under the aegis of the ERO, it has been decided that Vladimir Sadovsky is in charge of the general organisation and Alex Mersel in charge of the scientific aspects. The two of them and Patrick Hescot have been visiting Istanbul and discussing the event with the Turkish Dental Association. There will 11 topics be treated in the 2nd PEC, one of them the consensus conference. Vladimir Sadovsky points out that there

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are similar congresses taking place in other parts of the world, like Asia-Pacific Dental Congresses organized by the Asia-Pacific Regional Association of FDI.

The PEC is organised under the aegis of the ERO, who chooses the country to hold the congress, in the context of a national congress. The ERO does not take any part in the financial organisation and deals only with the international scientific programme.

Francisco Rodriguez Lozano recalls that ERO's former presidents had for a long time expressed the convenience of organizing congresses in Europe, the same as the congresses carried out by the Asian-Pacific Regional Association. But he is rather astonished that these congresses are organized by a private company and the profits are reverted into this company and not into ERO, which he thinks is not the case regarding the congresses organized by the Asian-Pacific Regional Association. It does not really please him that this matter of a private company organizing these congresses is introduced to the ERO members as a fact, instead of being discussion before in the General Assembly.

The PEC will take place during the scientific congress of the Turkish Dental Association, states Patrick Hescot. It is exactly the same thing as in Moscow, where this was organised under the patronage of ERO and its president, José Font-Buxó. We have no ambitions to organise congresses.

As his Spanish colleague, Wolfgang Sprekels feels quite uncertain about what he has heard. Is it correct that there will be a PEC where the ERO plenary session takes place? What about the dates and venue of this event? Patrick Hescot confirms that it will be held in Turkey, but completely independently from the ERO plenary session. The PEC will take place at the same time as the scientific congress of the Turkish dental association at the beginning of July.

With regard to the expenses of the persons of the ERO who may take part, these will be covered by the organiser (INEP).

In any case, the question of the role of the ERO with regard to the scientific programmes of the congresses will be discussed at the next session in Istanbul in order to clarify the roles of each of the parties involved (ERO, national association, organiser...)

B.9 Miscellaneous

There are no further questions.

C Close of the meeting – adjournment

Patrick Hescot closes this plenary session. He thanks all the participants for their contribution to this meeting and most of all he thanks the interpreters for their precious work.

Dr. Patrick Hescot
President

Monika Lang
Minutes

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