

## **ERO-Plenary session 26th / 27th April 2019, Frankfurt, Germany**

### ***Minutes***

#### **A Welcome**

The president, Anna Lella, opens the plenary session.

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

A warm welcome from Anna Lella to all present. Our former President (1998-2001), Dr. Peter Müller-Boschung, passed away on 7 February 2019 at the age of 80. We commemorate him with a minute's silence.

#### **A.2 Greetings of the president of the German Dental Association BZAEK**

Peter Engel, president of the German Dental Association, cordially welcomes everyone to Frankfurt. In particular, he welcomes the representatives of the FDI and EDSA. He briefly introduces Frankfurt. He hopes that the stay will be very pleasant and productive for everyone.

#### **A.3 Greetings of guests**

Like Peter Engel, Anna Lella welcomes FDI representatives Kathryn Kell, Gerhard Seeberger, Jack Cotrell, Susie Sanderson, Nikolai Sharkov and Edoardo Cavallé, Ishane Benyahya, former Presidents Michèle Aerden and Orlando Monteiro da Silva (FDI) and Philippe Rusca (ERO). She also welcomes Werner Betz, President ESDE and the President of EDSA, Alyette Greiveldinger and the Local Organising Committee.

#### **B Presentation by the German Dental Association**

(See also the presentation on the ERO-Website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>)

Peter Engel informs us about the rather complex German system and points out which objectives we have already achieved and where the future challenges lie. The BZAEK, including the Bundeszahnärztliche Kassenvereinigung, represents around 72,000 dentists. About 40 employees work for the chamber. Peter Engel focuses his report on the following topics relevant to BZAEK: Oral healthcare and prevention - Quality of education – Liberal professions and independence.

Oral healthcare and prevention - BZAEK's aim is to ensure the most comprehensive dental care possible for all people of all ages. For more than 25 years BZAEK has been co-organizer of a nationwide dental health day. He is pleased that it has finally been possible to include the screening of the youngest as well as new services for older people in the insurance catalogue. The provision of brochures and information material on HIV and AIDS in dental practices was also very well received by colleagues.

Quality in dental education is a burning issue. The training regulations date back to 1955 and must be modernized and adapted. However, reformation is a very long story. The training and support of young dentists is an important concern. New working models are also needed, and this is becoming increasingly important in view of the ever-growing number of female colleagues. Young dentists face different challenges than in the past. Regulations and bureaucracy are increasing and liberal work is becoming increasingly

restricted. More young people are needed in health and professional policy and it is not so easy to integrate them.

Liberal practice and dental independence - good professional regulation means, contrary to what is often claimed, safety for patients, the training of our young colleagues and the quality of dentistry. This applies to all liberal professions. There are various studies on the subject. We are working on making sure that the practice chains managed by investors are also subject to dental chamber law as a practice in themselves. There have been some successes, but also some challenges that need to be mastered.

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

### **C.1 Roll call**

As in Buenos Aires, the registered delegates and alternates will be shown on the screen. This saves a lot of valuable session time. Please report any changes to Monika Lang.

#### **Establishment of the quorum**

Oliver Zeyer announces that the quorum is established. With 71 possible delegates, the majority would be 36; 58 delegates are present.

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

The agenda is accepted unanimously. The handover of the Presidency, which had previously taken place during the gala dinner, was now officially put on the agenda at the end of the Plenary Assembly.

### **C.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary session in Buenos Aires**

The minutes are adopted unanimously without amendment.

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

(See also the presentation on the ERO-Website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>)

Anna Lella looks back on an interesting year. Two board meetings have taken place since Buenos Aires. Some working groups also met, others communicated by correspondence. The President reports on some national events she participated in, such as the 21st Prague Dental Days, Polish Dentistry Union Congress, 24th International Dental Congress of the Turkish Dental Association, ADF Congress and a Workshop on Prevention of Oral Cancer, of which a brochure was also published (see also on the website under Publications). Anna Lella apologizes for not being able to attend all the interesting events. Information about the ERO and the Board's activities is also provided by the Newsletter (also available on the website).

The term of office of the current board now expires; reason to look back on the last 3 years. It was a great honor and pleasure for Anna Lella to serve as ERO President. It has been three intensive years, not only for herself, but also for the entire Board. She would like to thank her colleagues for their good cooperation, also the members and chairmen of the working groups, Monika Lang for the leadership of the ERO Secretariat and Marek Szewczynski for the legal support.

Looking back on the first Assembly in 2016 in Poznan under her chairmanship, she is proud that the proposal we made to the FDI on "medical education in dentistry" had led to an FDI policy statement. This document should be a red thread not only for dental education, but also for politicians. ERO and the FDI have long been committed to ensuring that oral health is an integral part of general health. And the role of dentists is now not limited to dental health, but also includes the promotion of general health. In recent years, we have been able to make some contributions.

The work is not finished yet, ERO still has a lot to offer the world, including cooperation with other associations. It is also good that the ERO is constantly expanding. Recently, three new associations have been added.

The ERO is now 55 years old. 5 years ago, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary, a brochure was published and now 5 years later a new one is available. Anna Lella hopes that this brochure will help in documenting and appreciating our work. It can also be found on the ERO website under Publications.

### **C.5 Cooperation with EDSA**

The ERO Board would like to promote and advance the cooperation with the EDSA (European Dental Students' Association). To this end, both associations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This MoU can be found on our website, explains Anna Lella.

Alyetta Greiveldinger, President of EDSA, thanks for the invitation and the opportunity to speak briefly. The EDSA, which gathers 65000 students from 33 countries, is looking forward to the cooperation. Everyone can benefit from this cooperation with ERO. It has also been agreed to award a scientific prize for a student's work. This will be developed jointly. We are very happy to welcome FDI/ERO representatives to our meetings and roundtable discussions and look forward to benefiting from their experience and know-how, explains Alyetta Greiveldinger.

### **C.6 Cooperation with ESDE**

(See also the presentation on the ERO-Website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>)

Dr. Werner Betz, President of the ESDE (European Society of Dental Ergonomics) introduces himself and his association. They have been members of the ERO since 2001. The association consists of 45 members from 14 countries. Our aim is the collection, analysis, application and dissemination of existing knowledge in the field of ergonomics in dentistry. ESDE was founded in 1987 as a successor to the former FDI Working Group "Ergonomics and Hygiene". It was a small group of specialists dealing with dental ergonomics. Until 1998, the ESDE was an umbrella organization with a limited number of representatives from the national dental ergonomics working groups in Europe. Then the statutes were amended so that all European dentists and those interested in dental ergonomics could become members.

ESDE supports national working groups on dental ergonomics in start-up procedures, e.g. in Portugal and Romania. With congresses in European countries local groups could be promoted and many dentists could be reached.

Until 2015 there was more or less continuous financial support from sponsors from the dental industry. With the change of the sponsoring philosophy of the companies this support unfortunately ended. As a result, the previous principle of annual meetings had to be abandoned and opportunities for cooperation with other associations in the organization of congresses sought. In 2019 the annual meeting will take place within the AIO Congress in Sardinia. ESDE unterstützt nationale Arbeitsgruppen der Dentalergonomie bei

A look into the future: The prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders among dentists and practice personnel is the reason to search for better conditions for future generations of dentists. It is not true that the topic was only relevant at a time when the dentist's work was being changed from standing to sitting. The equipment of a dental practice and the modern instruments of practice organization increasingly present a challenge for the design of work processes and must be viewed from the point of view of work-life balance. We see it as the task of practice managers and universities, but also of associations and organizations, to create conditions that minimize work-related illnesses.

The very different framework conditions in the European countries have to be taken into account. Good cooperation and networking at European level are therefore necessary, and ergonomics must no longer be an issue only for idealists.

We see good opportunities for the ERO to support the ESDE and look forward to fruitful cooperation.

## **C.7 Finances**

### **7.1 Settlement of accounts 2018**

All member associations and delegates have received the financial documents by e-mail. Once again the ERO made a profit (€ 19'475.28). This is a good result and we have a considerable fortune, explains Bartolomeo Griffa.

The treasurer reads the audit report. Our auditor, Enrico Lai, unfortunately cannot attend this meeting. He recommends that the meeting accept the 2018 accounts. The delegates follow this motion with no dissenting vote.

### **7.2 Outstanding fees**

A single annual contribution of € 250 is outstanding.

### **7.3 Appointment of the auditor**

Enrico Lai has offered to continue as auditor. There are no objections to this. Enrico Lai is unanimously elected for another term of office.

### **7.4 Budget 2019**

Bartolomeo Griffa briefly explains the budget, which foresees a loss of 5000 €. Additional expenditures are to be foreseen especially for the plenary meetings. There are no signs of a change in income.

The word is not required and the assembly approves the budget for 2019 without a dissenting vote.

Bartolomeo Griffa will no longer be a member of the board in the next term. He thanks everyone for the good cooperation. It was beautiful and an important time in his life.

## **C. 8 Presentation of the candidates**

Simona Dianišková (Slovakia), followed by Taner Yücel (Turkey), Edoardo Cavallé (Italy), Henk Donker (Netherlands) and Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) present their candidature for the ERO Board.

## **C. 9 Working groups**

What the working groups do is very important for ERO, emphasizes Anna Lella. This is where points of view are defined and experiences are exchanged between the groups and the dentists.

### **9.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach has the floor. In the past years we have worked together to develop and discuss points of view with the aim of exercising a liberal, independent profession for the benefit of our patients and the preservation of our profession. Whereas in the past it was the influences of insurance systems, state intervention or the dangers of digitalization that were at the forefront, today we are increasingly faced with the takeover of our practices by capital investors and private equity companies. At the last plenary meeting in Buenos Aires, we took a critical stance on this and we still clearly remember the reminders of our Spanish colleague!

This development is an issue not only at ERO level but also at FDI level.

How to proceed, asks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach. It would be too little to resign oneself to a statement or a resolution. Although in most cases it has been left that way. One reason is that it is not possible for the ERO to exert influence on national systems and decisions within the EU. However, we should use existing structures to communicate our common positions.

The working group expressed very positive views on the Memorandum of Understanding between EDSA and ERO. This form of cooperation is an excellent basis for communicating this important topic of a future free practice of the profession to students and postgraduates in particular!

The delegates in this body do not represent the majority of the generation that will have to decide on a future profession because of our age. That is why we appeal to you to support your student associations and postgraduates at national level and involve them in the discussions on their future in the field of professional policy. Because this generation offers the great opportunity to prevent the current development.

In our "Association of liberal dentists in Germany", we have established a student parliament which regularly participates in our events, informs Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach. Another example for the integration of the young generation are activities from our team with Thomas Wolf, Oliver Zeyer and Philippe Rusca in Switzerland. They attend universities and give lectures in the field of vocational science. We are particularly interested in the young generation's expectations of their future careers. A member of our working group, Ralf Wagner, is currently working on a study/survey on this topic. It would be good if you could support the study in your countries.

Let me conclude by making an appeal to you. Statements and resolutions will not help us if they disappear into the drawer! Discuss them in your professional organizations and disseminate our common positions and pass them on to their political administrations. This is the only way we can transport our work in the ERO working group further and keep an eye on the negative development of medical care centers with borrowed capital and the associated mercantilisation as a central issue for the liberal exercise of the profession.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach informs at the end of his report about a small success: "In a law which will come into force here in Germany next month, our criticism will be taken into account.

Thus, the number of dentists in dental care centers financed by investors is to be limited according to the coverage level in the regions. In oversupplied regions, the number may not exceed 5%, in sufficiently supplied 10% and in poorly supplied regions 20%.

This is first and foremost an approach, the impact of which we will monitor critically in the coming period.

It is nice that at least your ideas are still being listened to. Besides, the views of ERO and CED were taken into account in the discussion about this law. Steady drops hollow out the stone!

At the end, he thanks the members of his working group for the good cooperation.

It is good to adopt resolutions, says Philippe Rusca, but they must then be translated into reality and have an impact. He briefly reports on the program already mentioned by Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, which he started together with Thomas Wolf, who works at the University of Bern, at the four universities in Switzerland. The target audience is dentists who complete a structured postgraduate training program. These are colleagues who have finished their studies and have already worked in practice or in large centers and have now returned to university. Unlike the students, these colleagues are much more interested in what we have to say. It's about explaining to the future dentists what the liberal practice of dentistry is. Once they return to the dental practice, it will be too late. There are different interpretations and we give corresponding lessons and show that this model of liberal work has a future. Philippe Rusca advises everyone to try to reach their target audience directly in their own countries and to pass on our message.

As already mentioned by Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, Ralf Wagner would like to conduct a Europe-wide survey on the expectations of dentistry students regarding their future careers. For this purpose he has set up a link ([http://www.consulimus.de/umfragen/kb\\_2019\\_kzv\\_nordrhein.html](http://www.consulimus.de/umfragen/kb_2019_kzv_nordrhein.html)), which contains the questionnaire in 5 languages. A corresponding note will be distributed. He asks everyone to pass on this information to the students. He expects interesting results. The survey stands and falls with the feedback. The more participants, the better the overview will be and if will hopefully enable us to see if there are the same expectations everywhere or if there are differences between the countries.

Doniphan Hammer inquires how this survey should be classified. Does it come from the working group, the German Dental Society or the ERO? It is his project, answers Ralf Wagner, but once he has the results, he will be happy to share them with the working group and the ERO.

## **9.2 Relation between dental practitioners and universities**

Simona Dianišková thanks her members and Anna Lella (Supervisor) for the good cooperation. It is important to have a representative of the board in the group and she hopes that this will continue in the future.

Topic of our working group: Interprofessional education - how is it defined in Europe? You may remember that there was an FDI document that formed the basis of our discussion. In the 1st phase we thoroughly examined this document and concentrated on the parts we could apply in Europe. Now we are in the 2nd phase of the project. We want to conduct a survey among the ERO and ADEE members. The results of the survey will be used to create an article on the topic. The conclusion of this work will hopefully be a joint statement by ERO and ADEE. Simona Dianišková reads the questions they will ask (see presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>).

The timetable is as follows: in May 2019 - if you to the project - the survey will be distributed among the ERO member states. The data will be analyzed between June and August 2019. In September 2019 the results will be discussed and presented at the ERO General Assembly in San Francisco.

The questionnaire starts with "forcing" those who complete it to give a first thought about what they understand by "IPE". Is it correct, Michael Frank inquires, that this could result in a very wide range of feedback? Simona Dianišková explains that this has been taken into account, but we'll see what comes out of the survey.

## **9.3 Integration**

The main objective of the Integration Working Group is to implement the integration process as quickly as possible, explains Vladimer Margvelashvili. Some progress has been made. The results of last year's survey led to recommendations to the national associations. The aim of these recommendations is the financial independence of the national associations and the rapid creation and implementation of binding CDE programs aimed at improving the oral health of patients. The role of the national associations is also to be improved through various measures with the help of the ERO. Keywords are: Exchange of knowledge and experience; planning and implementation of CDE and involvement of all dentists in CDE; ensuring cross-infection control in dental clinics; working with the authorities to be involved in the harmonization of regulations/legislation in the field of dentistry; timely provision of new practical, scientific and legal information to members. Please refer to the presentation on the ERO website (<https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>) for more information. It is important that the national associations are independent both financially and in their thinking.

The next step in integration should be to improve basic dental education at universities in the new independent countries. Vladimer Margvelashvili asks the plenary to support their recommendations.

The topic of the scholarship was dropped, as the working group did not agree.

Education and training is not only a central topic in the Integration Working Group, notes Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. There is certainly a need for communication and cooperation with the other groups. It also seems important to him to make the ERO and the FDI known to the many members of national associations who do not know these organizations. This is to be achieved through the presence of ERO representatives at congresses and events organized by national associations.

Everyone agrees that integration is not an easy process. Michael Frank reminds us of the task of this working group, namely to take up the results of other groups and carry

them to the new countries and see how they can be implemented. This is not easy and of course cooperation and communication are very important. Of course, ERO representatives can do this, if it makes sense to participate in events and contribute to disseminating the results already achieved. But it is equally important to take a step-by-step approach and not to set goals that cannot be achieved. He is also supported by Peter Engel, who points out the often arduous work with EU regulations.

The question from the Bulgarian delegation as to how the work in the integration group can be improved is very important. Michael Frank thinks that the presence in the meetings is important for the time being. Too often topics have to be discussed repeatedly, because the participants are not all on the same level of knowledge. Subsequently the topics have to be defined and one after the other they have to be worked on and dealt with. Too many projects at the same time often brings little success.

#### **9.4 Quality in dentistry**

The aim of this working group is to develop measures to improve the quality and safety of care in the various countries, explains Roland L'Herron. He refers to the questionnaire started some time ago. This work is now being resumed. Recommendations scare a lot of people and that's not what it's all about, making recommendations that are then imposed practically all over Europe. One can see in the area of training how difficult it is to develop something common in such a large and diverse region. The working group looks at what is being done in the various countries. Many people talk about quality, but when it comes to measuring it, it becomes difficult. Therefore, we are only trying to circle the tendencies a bit with a few questions. What interests us is whether there are any recommendations in your countries. Are they binding? Do they only refer to certain disciplines? Who came up with them, the public sector or private individuals or authorities? Above all, we would like to know whether the profession is involved in drawing up this recommendation.

Unfortunately we are a bit few people in the working group and therefore new members are always welcome. The questionnaire, which was also submitted to a French lawyer, is not easy. Therefore even a non-dentist can answer the questions very well. It would be nice if we could get some answers and then finish the work.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk congratulates Roland L'Herron on his tireless dedication to this very important issue of quality, which is a very important point of our work.

#### **9.5 Continuing medical education in dentistry**

Hande Sar Sancakli gives a brief overview of the work of her group. In the last 3 years we have developed a template for medical training conferences in dentistry. This with the purpose to support the national associations and at the same time to carry out the vision of the ERO. We presented this template at the last ERO meetings. We explained the format and, once approved by the ERO, wrote to and offered support to the associations. If you wish to use this tool, please always include an ERO session in your congresses to draw attention to this topic of medical education in dentistry. Last year, the working group also carried out an evaluation of the learning formats and received good feedback. We wanted to know which are the best models to provide medical education in dentistry. Interactive, e-learning, classical lectures and articles were rated as very useful. Finally, the group's work has been reflected in an FDI policy statement and is now available on the FDI website. This enabled us to underline our goal once again. This very useful paper can also be passed on to national and international medical associations. (See also presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>)

Hande Sar Sancakli thanks all colleagues for the good cooperation.

## 9.6. Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé thanks the Board and Anna Lella for publishing the results of the working group in the brochure ERO 1964-2019. This is very important.

They had decided to change the name of the working group. It is now called "Dental Team in Practice of 2030". The following topics will be dealt with in the near future: Management in practice - change in the curricula of the dental team; qualification in the use of new technologies/ digital media; harmonization between the profiles of the dental team in the European countries; optimization in the recruitment of members of the DT; quality of procedures in the DT; changed professional models.

On the occasion of the last working group meeting there was also a visit to Sirona and this has shown that there are many challenges awaiting our profession. Under the title "Back to the future" (presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes> ), Edoardo Cavallé will present the changes and trends for the future. We also see that our profession is becoming a feminine one. Many questions arise, such as how: What new challenges will our profession face? Which new technologies will influence our practice? What does the new generation of dentists expect? What is the future dental team? What about risk assessment in our practice?

A very short survey will help us to understand how these employees differ in the ERO region.

To meet all these challenges, we need collaboration between the working groups. He asks the Board to organize meetings between the chairs of the working groups.

Roland L'Herron argues that the real problem may not be the development of technology, but the question of who takes what place in the dental team.

According to Michael Frank, the aim was to inform us about how developments in the digital sector will be in practice. We wanted to see where the industry stands. The colleagues are very affine about technology, but it will change our workflow in practice tremendously. You can't replace the dentist with a robot, but the involvement of the team will be a crucial thing. That's why we have to think about what the training of our employees will be like in the future. Edoardo Cavallé fully agrees with this assessment.

## 9.7 Ageing population

Philippe Rusca first complains about the order of the presentations of the working groups. He wished that his would not always be the last one and therefore always under time pressure. He first thanks his members. He is proud of the good and active cooperation. He presents the goals of the working group. The main point is a questionnaire to be sent out in May, the results of which will hopefully be presented in San Francisco.

Sophie Darteville presents the project "Oralien". It is a very innovative, ambitious and digital instrument that makes it possible to keep an eye on the oral health of the elderly population. This program, developed by the French association ufsbd (union française pour la santé bucco-dentaire), aims to sensitize the elderly population and their families to the need to maintain oral health and to train nursing home staff and our dental team in how to deal with the elderly. Good oral hygiene is a prerequisite for good health.

Oralien is a comprehensive oral health management program for dependent elderly people. (See also the presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes> ). Nursing staff are trained locally in oral health. Tailor-made hygiene protocols are developed for each client and improved as needed. The health indicators are created and monitored using telemedicine (smartphone). Based on the survey of patients/residents, the data is collected, anonymized and transferred to a secure server. The data is transferred to an analysis platform and then evaluated by a dentist, who then makes recommendations to the nursing homes via a dashboard. The indicators are reviewed twice a year and every 6 months an assessment of the program is made together with the nursing staff and improvements are made if necessary. The advantage



of this program is that it integrates oral health into the institution's care program, which is very important.

It is a simple program that combines people and technology.

**Dental Monitoring and Artificial Intelligence** - The development of Artificial Intelligence requires large amounts of clean data to find elements and build a neural network that can then discover patterns of repetition and find attributes in which we are interested. Oralien is a very innovative program, but also a very ambitious one and it has taken years to build it. Currently, according to Sophie Dartevelle, the program only works in France, but of course we are willing to export it.

Alex Mersel congratulates Sophie Dartevelle on this lecture, but notes that the majority of the older population does not live in nursing homes or old people's homes, but at home, and that this large group is left to its own devices. This is the bigger problem.

Sophie Dartevelle is well aware of this. This program will not change everything, but it will help to ensure that the nursing staff in the institutions are made aware of and instructed on the problems of oral health.

Of course, we do not reach those who live at home.

Vladimer Margvelashvili talks about oral health problems and their relation to the general state of health of an ageing population in Georgia.

Georgia is a developing country, but as far as the ageing population is concerned, it already looks like a developed country. The population has declined considerably since 1950, and life expectancy is lower than in Central Western Europe. For further data (see also the presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>.)

A study was conducted to assess the health status of the oral cavity and the correlations with the general health status of older people (65+) in Georgia. The individual results can also be found in the presentation on the website. The following correlations were found:

Unhealthy periodontal tissue is associated with cardiovascular diseases, dementia and bone and joint diseases.

Poor oral hygiene is associated with unhealthy periodontal tissue.

Poor oral hygiene is associated with cardiovascular diseases, dementia and gastroenterological diseases.

The following conclusions were drawn:

The DMFT index increases with age.

The main part of the DMFT index is extracted teeth/toothlessness.

The need for prosthetic treatment is mainly related to socio-economic factors.

Toothlessness and the needs of prosthetic treatment are a current problem among elderly people in Georgia.

Oral conditions are related to the general state of health.

Preventive measures are needed to improve oral health and the quality of life associated with oral health in older people.

Educational programs for carers in nursing homes should be implemented.

Preventive and treatment optimisation projects and guidelines should be developed.

## **9.8 Approval of the reports of the working groups**

Anna Lella thanks all chairmen and members of the working groups for their work.

The reports of the working groups are unanimously approved.

## **C. 10 Member countries**

### **Admission of new members**

The Norwegian Dental Association expressed interest but did not submit its application. We hope that they will do so soon.

The application of the Macedonian Dental Chamber has been submitted. It is unanimously approved and the new member is warmly welcomed.

## National reports and discussion

22 reports were submitted, 2 unfortunately only so shortly before the meeting that they could not really be processed. The full version of all reports is available on our website. Oliver Zeyer has made a summary of the most important points from these country reports (see the presentation on the ERO website - <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>. ) and introduces them.

Anna Lella thanks for the great and very comprehensive work. Now a discussion will take place. There are many problems in many countries, notes Oliver Zeyer. He has picked out the three most burning ones:

- Number of dentists: practitioners, migration, number of students, quality of education
- Corporate Dentistry: Ethics in Dentistry, Possibilities of Regulation and Control
- Digitalization: data protection, issues, risks and chances

After some initial difficulties, a discussion on the highlighted points eases after all. Finally, these problems are in the reports and the opportunity should be taken to talk about them. It is agreed that the main problems are the excessive number of dentists being trained and the quality of training.

There is also agreement that it is not enough to keep confirming to each other that these problems exist. Solutions must be found. This requires data to be collected by means of surveys. The question also arises as to who is to find these solutions and who is responsible for it.

Michael Frank thanks Oliver Zeyer for his great work. He, too, thinks that one should comment on these problems. Actually, this is the reason why we come together here so that we can work out solutions.

He would like to tackle this in the next board and define a strategy. For the next spring meeting, the summary of the country reports could perhaps be distributed in advance so that there is more time for discussion.

The delegates talk about the problem of the quality of education and the often existing lack of transparency of the educational goals and demand that the universities disclose the educational curricula.

Once again it is pointed out that although it is good to draft resolutions, they should not disappear into the drawers. The information must be passed on. There needs to be a timetable and a responsible group to work out proposals that individual members can then carry to their countries. We also need more "marketing" via the modern social media, for example.

Michael Frank agrees with these proposals. It is a task for the new board. He wants to work out a proposal until the summer on how to prepare these things for the future. He hopes that the plenary session agrees. Ideas from the delegates are very welcome.

The FDI's goals and activities, which Gerhard Seeberger mentions, will be supported and, of course, we hope this will happen the other way round as well.

## C. 11 Elections

Sabina Alyeva and Marek Szewczynski form the election office. Nobody has anything against it.

Marek Szewczynski explains the procedure. Candidates who receive more than 50% of the votes are elected.

The ballot papers are distributed and he announces the results after each ballot.

ERO President elect - 57 ballot papers were distributed, 57 were cast, Simona Dianišková is elected with 54 votes.

General Secretary - 57 ballot papers were distributed, 57 were cast, Taner Yücel is elected with 48 votes.

Board members - 57 ballot papers distributed, 57 submitted - in a first ballot Edoardo Cavallé received 13 votes, Henk Donker 7 and Oliver Zeyer 29 votes (8 are invalid). Oliver Zeyer is thus elected.

In the second ballot 55 ballot papers are distributed, 55 are delivered - Edoardo Cavallé receives 40, Henk Donker 14 votes (1 invalid). Edoardo Cavallé is elected.

We wish all new and former members of the Board every success and satisfaction in their office.

## C. 12 FDI

### **FDI – Message of the president**

Kathryn Kell reports from the FDI. In short, the FDI is the most important representative for over one million dentists worldwide. It is made up of around 200 national dental associations and professional groups from more than 130 countries. She presents the FDI's governance structure and reports on the strategic plans 2018-2021. The main points are member support, advocacy and know-how transfer. An important task is the support of the members. We have training programs which we present in the individual countries. The website also provides tools and information. Member participation - I act as an ambassador for the FDI and it is always a great honor for me to attend the events. The ERO is the oldest and most active member of the FDI. Representation of interests - The FDI has set itself 3 objectives - 1: To ensure that oral health is recognized and accepted as a core element of general health and well-being. 2: Integrate oral health into the prevention and treatment of other non-communicable diseases. Goal 3: Mobilize members to build national capacity to effectively influence and shape oral health at the global level.

World Oral Health Day 2019: motivates people to take action to protect their oral health, positions oral health professionals as door-openers to good overall health, creates incentives for people to undergo regular dental check-ups and ensures the commitment of policy makers to address oral diseases.

This day is a wonderful opportunity to promote oral health. She herself was in Egypt that day. A very interesting stay. She thanks Edoardo Cavallé for his great commitment to the programmes for this special day!

Finally, Kathryn Kell refers to the various policy statements. As we saw last year, FDI is listening and so the ERO statement on medical education in dentistry has been adopted. Know-how Transfer - In an effort to share and promote knowledge, the FDI has decided to advance the art, science and practice of dentistry by convening representatives of the oral health community to develop best practice practices and share knowledge about preventive treatment and care.

The FDI President is very pleased that the ERO has also started working with the student associations. This is very important.

At the end of her report, Kathryn Kell presents the FDI projects and hopes that everyone will participate in the forthcoming congresses (San Francisco 4-8 September 2019 and 2020 in Shanghai). (Her presentation can also be found on the website (<https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/frankfurt-2019/minutes>)).

Candidates for the office of President-elect of the FDI have the floor. Ishane Benyahya, Jack Cottrell and Peter Engel present their candidacies. Nikolai Sharkov also introduces himself briefly and asks for re-election as an FDI Council member.

## C. 13 Next meetings

- Plenary session 2019 (autumn) – San Francisco/ USA – 6th September
- Plenary session 2020 (spring) – Almaty/Kazakhstan – 24<sup>th</sup> /25<sup>th</sup> April

Azamat Baigulakov thanks Kazakhstan for choosing Kazakhstan as the venue for the next spring plenary session, they will do everything they can to organize an unforgettable event. He shows a short video.

- Plenary session 2020 (autumn) – Shanghai/China (FDI-congress)
- Plenary session 2021 (spring) – Romania has applied for it and there are no other candidacies. It shall be put to the vote. The majority is in favor of holding the 2021 General Assembly in Bucharest. The date will be fixed as soon as possible.

#### **C. 14 Miscellaneous**

The word is not required.

#### **C. 15 Handover of the presidency**

Anna Lella looks back: "It was a very interesting time in my life. I spent 9 years on the ERO Board, first as Secretary General, President-elect and then as President. I very much hope that you were satisfied with my work. On the one hand, I am very happy that we have achieved important things during this time and I am sure that ERO is doing well and that we will continue to play an important role in world dental health. On the other hand, I am happy to hand the presidency over to Michael Frank, with whom I have had the pleasure of working for so many years. He will continue to lead the ERO to success. It is also time to say thank you once again to all the Board members who have always supported me. She also thanks Monika Lang for her work, her country Poland, her chamber and Marek Szewczynski for her cooperation and support.

Michael Frank addresses himself to Anna Lella. He thanks her on behalf of the board for the successful cooperation. It was certainly exhausting at times, but it was effective and it was nice to work together with her. Thanks to her diplomatic understanding, she always managed to bring people together. He hopes that she will be ready and available for further tasks in the future.

This is followed by the handing over of a gift and the presidential chain.

#### **D Close of the meeting**

Anna Lella thanks the translators for their valuable and good work, the participants of this meeting for their participation and closes the meeting with the words: ERO does not exist without you!

The president:

Dr. Anna Lella

For the minutes:

Monika Lang

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