



ERO-Plenary Session

23rd September 2022, Geneva, Switzerland

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

The president welcomes all persons present to this plenary session.

A.2 Welcome of guests

Simona Dianišková extends a special welcome to Michèle Aerden, Anna Lella, Orlando Monteiro da Silva, Gerhard Seeberger, Patrick Hescot, Philippe Rusca and Michael Frank (all previous FDI and/or ERO Presidents).

B Standard agenda of the business meeting

B.1 Roll call / Establishment of the quorum

The names of the registered delegates are presented on the screen. Taner Yücel announces that 60 of 69 delegates are present and that there is therefore a quorum.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda were unanimously approved.

B.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary Session in Bucharest

The minutes of the plenary session of 29/30 April 2022 were unanimously approved.

B.4 Report of the Board

Simona Dianišková again thanks the organisers for the meeting in Bucharest and reports on the activities in the meantime. In the meantime, the Board has met four times virtually. She herself took part in various congresses and conferences. No additions by the board members.

B.5 Report by the representatives of EDSA

Ivana Ligušová, President of EDSA, presents the organisation, its aims and activities, members and dates of the next meetings (see also Presentation on the ERO website: [ERO Website](#)).

Under the aegis of Anna Lella, and later Michael Frank, a scientific award was created. This year, the competition was announced for the first time. From the many essays

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that were reviewed by Paula Perlea and Taner Yücel the following three winners emerged:

1. Manuela Milos, School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb, Croatia
Essay title: Dental treatment challenges in special care dentistry services
2. Maria Ioana Ionicas, Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
Essay title: Next Stop in Digitalization: Periodontology
3. Ataberk Kayhan, Marmara University, Faculty of Dentistry, Maltepe, Turkey
Essay title: Dentistry in Another World

The ERO President congratulates the winners and presents the corresponding certificates.

B.6 Finances

Oliver Zeyer delivered a report on the finances in Bucharest. Currently there is not much news to report. He thanks all those who have paid the membership fees and will contact the 8 who have not yet paid directly. The next report will be in Istanbul.

B.7 Working groups

The President underlines how important the support from the working groups is and how happy the Executive Board is about the many colleagues who are involved in them.

7.1 Ageing population

The working group mainly discussed this toothbrushing application, reports Henk Donker. It was already presented in Bucharest. Currently, it only exists in English, but it can easily be downloaded and translated into other languages. Certain administrative questions still need to be clarified with the Board.

The working group has also thought about new topics. Information on these will be given at a future meeting. Henk Donker will now hand over the chairmanship of the working group to his designated successor, Jean-Philippe Haesler; always provided that the delegates agree to this change. He himself will remain a member of the working group. He concluded by thanking the WG members for their good cooperation.

Simona Dianišková, for her part, thanks Henk Donker's valuable work over the many years.

The new chair is elected unanimously.

7.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

This working group also has a new chair in the person of Gerhard Seeberger, who is elected on this occasion without any dissenting votes.

He emphasises how important it is to be proactive and not just reactive. In this context, Gerhard Seeberger refers to an interview with the CEO of Acura published in "Quintessenz" (see [ERO Website](#)). In this interview, he comments on the practice market in Germany and the role of medical care centres (MVZs) in dental care. Perhaps this article (which can be requested in an English translation from the ERO Secretariat) will contribute something to the understanding of the "other side". After all, we cannot practise without the industry, remarks Gerhard Seeberger.

Corporate dentistry is on the rise and clearly cannot be stopped. It is therefore important to obtain information on the current situation. The newly launched survey on the topic of

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"Liberal practice at times of multi-dentist dental offices, office networks and ambulatory healthcare centers" attempts to show the development and changes since 2016. Gerhard Seeberger implores everyone to take part in this survey. The evaluations should then be available by the next meeting and hopefully provide important insights.

7.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Mare Saag commented on the ongoing project of "interprofessional education and collaborative practice" (see presentation on [ERO Website](#)). The working group drafted a statement to this effect, which concludes with a recommendation to the member associations to make all possible stakeholders aware of this potentially innovative method in the education of dentists, which enables patient care to be carried out in a collaborative team environment.

The statement is unanimously adopted.

7.4 Integration

Representing the absent Chair, Vladimer Margvelashvili, Edoardo Cavallé speaks briefly about the work of this group (see also [ERO Website](#)). It refers to the survey results already shown on previous occasions and the still partly large differences in dental education between East and West. There is still much to be done.

The CED is in the process of re-collection of data for the EU Manual of Dental Practice. It is important that the non-EU countries, which are represented in large numbers in the Integration Working Group, now also give their input.

For many years we have been trying to establish cooperation with other organisations. This is a CED project in which ERO member associations can participate, notes Simona Dianišková, expressing her hope that as many as possible will participate and contribute to the success of this project.

A change of chairmanship is also pending in this working group. Edoardo Cavallé expects that this election can be carried out at the next General Assembly.

7.5 Continuing medical education in dentistry

Hande Sar Sancakli presents a new project that was started after the Plenary Session in Bucharest (see also [ERO Website](#)). It is a survey of the future training needs of undergraduate dental students. The survey contains 19 questions and she hopes for the best possible response from member associations. Cooperation with EDSA is also planned. In the end, this should result in a resolution that will be presented at a future plenary meeting.

Simona Dianišková thanks for the contribution and congratulates Hande SarSancakly on the very successful training project within the FDI.

7.6 Dental Team

The working group deals with the digitalisation of dentistry in the field of the dental team ([ERO Website](#)). In Bucharest, the first part of the task was presented. Now, according to Doniphan Hammer, they have tackled the second part. This concerns the topic of e-health. Recommendations are to be worked out, which can then be adopted in the individual states depending on their possibilities and legislation. At a next meeting, they will present the result of this second phase of the project.

7.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence

Roman Smucler thanks Prof. Ingrid Pozylo-Kalinowska for preparing a survey on the topic of "Basic education in digital dentistry in dental courses in Europe". They are in the process of collecting data and will then make a proposal on how to use it further.

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He also refers to the ERO website where a lot of documents on the topic are already posted under Publications - Digital Dentistry ([Digital Dentistry](#)).

The idea of a separate website on digitalisation is still under discussion and will probably be taken up again at a next working group meeting and possibly at the ERO General Assembly.

7.8 Approval of the reports of the Working groups

All reports of the working groups are adopted unanimously.

The ERO President thanks all members of the working groups for their valuable and much appreciated cooperation.

There is an "ethics group" in the FDI. Michèle Aerden thinks this would also be important for the ERO. Simona Dianišková thanks for the suggestion. We will think about it.

We voted on a document of the working group "Relationship between dental practitioners and universities". Gerhard Seeberger would welcome receiving such documents in advance. This statement is a conclusion from the PS in Frankfurt, says Simona Dianišková, but this argument will be taken into account.

B.8 Member countries

All Presidents, notes Taner Yücel, have always been interested in discussing the concerns of the member associations in the Plenary Session. There are some problems and one of them is "corporate dentistry". This is where we really need to be proactive. Little time has passed since the Bucharest meeting. With regard to the report of the Dutch Dental Association, he would be interested to hear what their representatives have to say on the subject. Hans De Vries takes the opportunity to explain that in the Netherlands only about half of the dentists are still self-employed. The others work for other dentists or dental chains. That is quite impressive. This is partly due to the fact that young dentists tend to move to the cities and then find employment with a dental chain. Of course, there are also "good chains" where the dentists have leadership and decision-making power. On the other hand, we have to take decisive action against the black sheep. We all agree that money plays a big role and that running an individual practice does not always guarantee a dentist's existence and that it is often difficult, especially for young colleagues, to build up such an existence.

B.9 FDI Matters - Presentation of candidates in the FDI elections

At this point, the European candidates for positions in the FDI Parliament are given the floor. The candidates present briefly introduce themselves.

This is followed by a discussion on procedural matters at the FDI General Assemblies, which causes some displeasure and criticism from some delegates. In the end, however, this has to be clarified directly with the FDI or in the forums or at the General Assembly.

B.10 Next meetings

Ugur Ergin briefly presents the next meeting venue. The Spring 2023 Plenary will be held in Istanbul on 28/29 April.

In autumn 2023, the meeting will be held in Sydney during the World Dental Congress and the dates and venues of the other meetings will be determined in Istanbul.

B.11 Miscellaneous

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C Close of the meeting

Simona Dianišková closed the meeting at 4.50 pm and thanked everyone - especially the interpreters - for their good cooperation.

Simona Dianišková
ERO President

Monika Lang
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