



ERO – Plenary Session
28th/29th April, 2023, Istanbul, Türkiye
Hotel CVK PARK BOSPHORUS (5*)

Friday, 28.04.2023

08.30 h - 16.00 h

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

Simona Dianišková opens the meeting and welcomes all delegates and alternate delegates.

A.2 Welcome of guests

A special welcome is extended to FDI President, Ihsane Ben Yahya, FDI-CEO, Enzo Bondioni and some of his staff, former FDI and ERO-President, Gerhard Seeberger, former FDI-President, Michèle Aerden, former ERO-Presidents Anna Lella and Michael Frank. Patrick Hescot and Philippe Rusca, both former ERO-Presidents, unfortunately cannot be present.

A special welcome also goes to Freddie Sloth-Lijsberg, CED-President. He addresses a few words to the assembly. The CED is a bit smaller than the ERO. However, both organisations share the same goals, e.g., to improve and maintain oral health in Europe. He wishes everyone a successful meeting.

A.3 Greetings of the President of the Turkish Dental Association

B Presentation by the president of the Turkish Dental Association

Ahmet Tarık İşmen welcomes those present and expresses his pleasure at hosting this meeting in his country, which celebrates the 100th anniversary of its foundation in 2023. He introduces the country and the Turkish Dental Association. You can find the text of his speech on the ERO website ([Istanbul 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org)).

C Standard agenda of the Plenary Session

C.1 Roll call Taner Yücel

Establishment of the quorum

Taner Yücel presents the list of registered delegates and alternate delegates. Of 68 possible delegates, 49 are present. The quorum is therefore established.

C.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was sent to the delegates. No changes were requested, and it is approved unanimously.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of the Plenary Session 2022

No written requests for amendments to the minutes of the meeting of 23 September 2022 in Geneva were received and the floor is not requested. The minutes are unanimously adopted.

C.4 Report of the President and the Board

The President informs about the good cooperation with the FDI. This has resulted, for example, in the workshop that will take place on Saturday. She calls on those present to take an active part. Lively contact is also maintained with the ADEE and the CED. A CED-ERO task force on "Liberal Profession in Europe" will start its work soon. EDSA - Simona Dianišková also stresses the importance of working with young colleagues who, after all, represent our professional future.

The ERO board is very active and has taken on new tasks (new working group, expansion of information activities, social media, etc.). The board meets once a month (mostly via Zoom); four times in presence. The President also thanks the National Associations for the many invitations to their events. Unfortunately, she cannot accept all of them.

Paula Perlea presents the new social media plan. ERO is to become more active in the area of communication. Together with a small team, she will ensure a greater presence on social media.

EDSA Awards - Together with Taner Yücel, Paula Perla read 16 submitted essays and evaluated them using a grid and selected 3 winners.

C.5 Report from EDSA

The EDSA representatives report on their activities (reference is made to the presentation on the ERO website ([Istanbul 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org))). The student association is very active, and they are very happy about the good cooperation with ERO.

At this point, the award winners are presented, and the certificates handed over for the attention of the award winners (see also ERO website).

C.6 Finances Oliver Zeyer

6.1 Settlement of accounts 2022

Oliver Zeyer explains the expenses. The compensation of the Board members has remained the same. The expenses for meetings, IT and translation costs as well as the expenses of the secretariat have increased compared to the previous year. The costs for the plenary sessions remained below the budgeted amount.

All in all, it can be said that the costs for many goods and services have increased worldwide. ERO is not spared from this either. Nevertheless, the treasurer can announce a profit for 2022 of € 27,489.85.

He also explains the balance sheet. The financial situation presents itself well.

6.2 Outstanding fees

There are only two outstanding membership fees, Oliver Zeyer announces. He is in contact with the respective member associations.

6.3 Report of the auditor

The auditor, Enrico Lai, cannot be present this time but has sent his report. Oliver Zeyer presents it and highlights the most important points.

The auditor has carefully examined the accounts and found them to be correct. He recommends that the delegates accept the 2002 accounts.

The delegates follow this proposal and approve the 2022 accounts without dissenting votes. The Executive Board is discharged unanimously.

6.4 Budget 2023

With the present budget, the Board proposes an increase in the compensation for expenses of the Board members as well as the compensation of the Secretariat. The reasons for this have already been explained at the beginning. It is due to the increased costs everywhere. We notice more activity of the working groups. This is very welcome. If financial resources are needed for the realisation of projects, the chairs of the working groups must submit a project description and a budget.

Finally, a higher amount will also be used for IT costs. This is due to the current operating system on which the website runs and that is no longer technically supported. This requires some major work. In addition, the website is to be given a more modern look and made more accessible for social media. As mentioned in the Board report, ERO would like to increase its media visibility and do more communication; an additional amount has also been allocated for this.

With the membership fee remaining the same and the costs likely to be higher, a negative result of € 43,500 is presented for 2023. It is not the aim of the Board to accumulate money, emphasizes the treasurer. If concrete projects are presented in the working groups and a corresponding application is made, the Board will be happy to examine them.

The budget was adopted unanimously.

C.7 Working groups

7.1 Ageing Population

The Chair, Jean-Philippe Haesler, informs that the web application of the "Toothbrushing manual" is now completed and available in 6 languages. Additional languages can be added. The costs for this will be covered by ERO. However, the recurring expenses for hosting and maintaining the application cannot be financed by ERO and therefore - in consultation with the Board - they have started looking for sponsors. This is new territory for ERO. It is assured that support from the industry will only be related to this specific project.

The delegates welcome this endeavour. The vote to engage sponsors for this project is passed without dissent.

7.2 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Gerhard Seeberger reports a good response to the survey relaunched from 2016 on the topic of "Liberal practice at times of multi-dentist dental offices, office networks and ambulatory healthcare centers". The results will then be presented in Sydney. Please also refer to the report on the ERO website ([Istanbul 2023 - European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale \(erodental.org\)](https://erodental.org)). After that, the group would like to turn its attention to the topic of "global oral health" and its consequences for the liberal practice of dentistry. A topic that Nick Sharkov considers very important and is very supportive of. There is no further discussion on this. The working group is encouraged to pursue this topic.

7.3 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

The paper on "Interprofessional Education: Strengths, Weaknesses, Barriers," Has now been completed. The study on "Transition from dental student to practitioner" is in progress. Both articles should be published this year. A new topic will be defined at the next working group meeting. Simona Dianišková thanks Mare Saag for her presentation and her work. She encourages those present to bring important reports/articles for publication to the ERO Board.

7.4 Integration

Edoardo Cavallé has taken over the chairmanship of this working group on an interim basis but is now happy to pass on this office. In the working group meeting, it was agreed that Ilshat Yuldashev should now lead this group. He has the floor. The vision of this group has changed. The update of the CED manual, on which non-EU associations could also give their opinion, serves to show the situation in the European countries. Health systems are different, and you cannot say that one is better than the other. Perhaps there should be a survey on the problems in the post-Soviet countries. The Integration Working Group should take the results of the other groups' work and bring them to the existing and new member countries of the post-Soviet region. It should also find out how and through which channels improvements can be made in the structures and programmes, e.g. in postgraduate education. It would certainly be important at the beginning if the most important documents were also available in Russian, concludes Ilshat Yuldashev.

Edoardo Cavallé emphasises that ERO is also willing to support this group. However, a concrete project would have to be presented.

7.5 Continuing medical education in Dentistry

In her report, Hande Sar-Sancakly points out the importance of the FDI Vision 2023 in promoting oral health as an essential component of overall health and well-being. Thus, one of the main pillars of Vision 2030 is the training of high-performing oral health personnel. They strongly believe that both basic and advanced training must serve this goal. This is what the working group wants to support. The working group has conducted a survey to find out what theoretical and practical gaps exist in training and how any deficits can be remedied. They have also sought cooperation with the EDSA and will try to present results at the next plenary session, which will then result in a publication.

7.6 Dental Team

Doniphan Hammer's report highlights the many technological innovations and challenges that the dental team faces and must overcome. This is not only about dental technology, but also about management and communication tasks (see presentation on the ERO website). The working group strongly recommends that member associations adapt professional and educational standards to the changing circumstances. Each country will have to manage this considering national guidelines.

7.7 Digitalization in dentistry – E-Health – Artificial Intelligence

Roman Smucler presents the results of a survey on digitalisation in dental practices and dental education. The statements on artificial intelligence are also included in his presentation (see ERO website). One of the biggest challenges with AI in dentistry is data quality. Not changing the software is the most important thing but having correct data. This is where professional companies can provide support. When using artificial intelligence, you cannot rely only on technology. There needs to be human control, appropriate guidelines, and patient information when such technologies are used. Finally, safety is also very important, and the ethical implications must not be forgotten. Roman Smucler then shows how "teledentistry" works and what the challenges are there (see presentation on the ERO website). It will be necessary to adopt regulations. The working group will present corresponding proposals.

7.8 Approval of the reports of the Working groups

Simona Dianišková expresses her gratitude for the reports of the chairpersons and the great work of the various working groups. The working group reports are unanimously accepted and acknowledged.

7.9 Presentation of a new working group "Oral Health and General Health"

Simona Dianišková underlines the importance of the relation between oral health and general health. The Board would like the support of the delegates for the creation of this new working group. The member federations will be contacted in the near future and asked to

nominate members for this working group. The first meeting could then take place in Sydney and the chair could be appointed. The working group will then have to define its tasks and goals. It will certainly have to look at the WHO documents, define common factors and decide whether the WHO demands can be met. Tomorrow's FDI workshop will also provide information on this. The idea of creating this working group is welcomed by all.

C.8 Member countries

Admission/Resignation of members

There are no resignations nor admission of members.

National reports and discussion

Taner Yücel informs that many reports have come in and he thanks the NDA's for this. He has read them all and summarised the most important points in a resume (see report on the ERO website).

Simona Dianišková thanks him for the great work, but also the National Associations who submitted their reports.

Three main themes (concerns) emerge from the reports. Certainly, a major concern is "corporate dentistry" or indeed the fight against it. Then, in some countries, the training of young dentists or the training centres are a topic of discussion and insufficient insurance systems or reimbursements by the insurance companies.

The increased costs for energy supply, rents and personnel are causing problems for many dentists. The question is whether and to what extent these additional costs can be passed on to the patients. In many places, the authorities are no help, at least that is what the president states for her country.

Jean-Philippe Haesler reports a case of a French colleague who had his licence revoked in France and then simply opened a practice in Switzerland. It would be desirable if such information could be exchanged, and such cases avoided. It seems, says Paulo Melo, that an information system exists within the EU countries.

For a few years now, says Doniphan Hammer, people have been talking about the number of graduates. In some countries there are few, in some countries too many. But it seems that there is no solution here and often a reasonable evaluation of needs is missing or ignored. Basically, this has to be regulated in the individual countries, here ERO does not have much influence. The Turkish President also refers to problems such as dental tourism or the industry coming under pressure due to digitalisation.

All in all, these country reports give a good overview of the state of dentistry in the various member states, and the individual votes and discussions that follow go into more depth on certain points, the President notes with satisfaction.

C. 9 FDI matters - report

FDI President Ihsane Ben Yahya is pleased to be here at the ERO General Assembly. She gives an overview of the FDI activities of the last year. An important point is the workshop planned for Saturday. It is also about the collaboration with WHO and the contribution the FDI has been able to make to various documents, such as the "global oral health strategy". Under the chairmanship of the FDI, the five members of the World Health Profession Alliance signed a groundbreaking memorandum to strengthen the working relationship with WHO. She also reports on public health and education projects that the FDI supports. This of course includes World Oral Health Day and the World Dental Congress (see also presentation on the ERO website).

Enzo Bondioni invites all present to participate in the "Vision 2030" workshop on Saturday. It will be held for the first time. The results are important for both the ERO and the FDI. They will then be discussed and will also help the FDI for further workshops. He is looking forward to many interesting discussions.

Simona Dianišková is very happy about the cooperation and hopes to take many things home from it.

Candidates for the FDI elections in autumn now can speak briefly. Nick Sharkov takes this opportunity to present himself as a candidate for President-elect.

C.10 Next meetings

The next plenary session will be held on 25 September 2023 - in the afternoon - in Sydney during the FDI Congress.

There are three candidatures for the 2024 Spring Plenary. Member associations from Kazakhstan, Israel and Cyprus have offered to organise the meeting. All are given the opportunity to present their candidature.

There is a written ballot at this point. The Secretariat has prepared appropriate ballot papers. The lawyers Marek Szewczynski and Jörg Krainhöfner are watching over the correct conduct. The candidate with the highest number of votes is awarded the election. The ballots are counted by the lawyers. Israel receives the most votes.

Thus, the Plenary Session will take place in Israel from 25-27 April 2024.

The location and date of the 2025 Plenary Session has not yet been determined.

C.11 Miscellaneous

The floor is not requested.

D Close of the meeting

Adjournment

The President. Simona Dianišková closes the meeting at 4.00 p.m. with thanks to the translators, the delegates, the host member association and the members of the Executive Committee for their excellent cooperation.

President: Dr. Simona (Slovakia) • President-Elect: Dr. Edoardo Cavallé (Italy) •
Secretary General: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey) • Treasurer: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Councilor: Prof. Paula Perlea
(Romania)

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