

ERO – Plenary Session 30th August 2017, Madrid, Spain

Minutes

A Welcome

Anna Lella welcomes everybody. A special welcome goes to the president of the Spanish Dental Association, Dr. Óscar Castro Reino; Patrick Hescot, Orlando Monteiro da Silva, Michèle Aerden, former FDI presidents; Philippe Rusca, Gerhard Seeberger, former ERO presidents.

Following the terrible events that happened in Spain last week Anna Lella expresses to the Spanish Dental Association words of solidarity and friendship. She is sure that the World Dental Congress in Madrid will be successful, and that the presence of the great number of dentists from all over the world is evidence that we are united in rejecting and combating terror in every form.

The president of the Spanish Dental Association, Dr. Óscar Castro Reino, thanks for the compassionate words. He remembers that a couple of years ago, a Spanish colleague, Dr. José Font-Buxò, was president of ERO. He welcomes everybody in Madrid and wishes a successful meeting, an interesting congress and a pleasant stay in the Spanish capital.

B Agenda of the business meeting

B.1 Roll call – Establishment of the quorum

Oliver Zeyer does the roll call. 58 delegates are present; the quorum is achieved.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

Everybody has received the agenda and it is as well published on the website. It is unanimously without corrections approved. It is a tradition, remarks Anna Lella that the candidates for an FDI office, can present themselves within this assembly. This usually happens under the agenda item “FDI matters”, but since some of the candidates must be present in other meetings, this may also be at another time.

B.3 Approval of the minutes of Geneva

The minutes are approved unanimously.

B.4 Information Board

Anna Lella reports. The board has met in Warsaw at the beginning of July to discuss the current business. It has been reported on this in the newsletters. She has participated in the meeting of FDI regional organizations in Madrid. The ERO report can be found in the

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FDI documents. She once again pointed to the draft of the statement on continuing medical education. Anna Lella thanks our FDI liaison officer, Nick Sharkov, for his support and commitment. The collaboration between ADEE and our working group „Relation between dental practitioners and universities“, supported by Nermin Yamalik, is proceeding well. So does the collaboration with EDSA (European Dental Student’s Association), which, by the way, has a new board.

The ERO working groups have worked very efficiently. We will have their reports later. We will further decide about the admission of a new ERO member. On the occasion of the last plenary session, four member associations were excluded because of non-payment of the annual contributions. The member lists have been adjusted accordingly. The associations were informed by means of a letter. If they want to become a member again, they must pay the outstanding contributions and apply again for the admission. This also applies to Russia. I can inform you that, thanks to the mediation of Paulo Melo, the Sociedade Portuguesa de Estomatologia e Medicina Dentaria SPEMD has paid the missing contributions in the meantime, and the Board is therefore of the opinion that they can continue their membership.

Anna Lella regrets not always being able to meet all invitations to national events. Most of the information is made available to the members via the newsletter and publication on the website.

Nermin Yamalik gives a brief report about the collaboration with ADEE. The most important project is the “perspective in interprofessional education”. This project is carried out in four phases. It is essentially based on the FDI reference document „Optimal Oral Health through Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice“. In the first phase, this document is now being reviewed and revised. If everything is going as planned, we hope to give you the result of the first phase or at least some details in Salzburg or at the latest in Buenos Aires.

The second phase of this project will be a joint article of the ERO and ADEE and the third phase will be the implementation of interprofessional education in the dental faculties in Europe. Finally, the fourth phase will be a joint statement on interprofessional education. Our colleagues from ERO and ADEE are very enthusiastic. Not only because it is important and relevant and in the fourth phase the methodology and different data for Europe are being worked out, but because this project brings both organizations closer together and dentistry in Europe can benefit from the synergy between the two organizations.

Ward van Dijk is pleased that this document, which we have created a few years ago, is helpful to this cooperation. A delegation from the Netherlands has participated in a ADEE event last week in Vilnius. He informs about a group of DHs, which, under the aegis of the ADEE, will elaborate a profile for a European DH which will then be submitted to the European Commission. Unfortunately, no other dentists' association was present to help and guide them. He encourages the dentist associations present at this meeting to become a member of the ADEE. This would give us the possibility to participate in the preparation and coordination of new projects and would provide us direct information on the activities of ADEE. There is also a new profile for the training of dentists in work and we should know what happens and support them in the elaboration of the curriculum. He

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finds it very important for political reasons to be a member and to ensure that, for example, the profile of the DH and the dentists corresponds to wishes of ERO and FDI.

Doniphan Hammer thanks for the presentation of this very well-developed project. However, it would be good and important to have the appropriate written documentation so that we can study this project in our countries and pass on the information.

Anna Lella assures that all documents will be prepared and that this topic will be a special agenda item for the next plenary session.

Peter Engel appreciates the collaboration with the ADEE. He thinks that is very important that we are informed very thoroughly. Precisely because the purely scientific thinking and the professional-political thinking are sometimes somewhat contradictory. It is therefore important to recognize the impact of such projects in our countries.

Nermin Yamalik thanks for the constructive comments. As I said, all documents will be sent to member associations. The reference document we are talking about is the FDI document, which was discussed in Bangkok in 2015. There should be enough time to form an opinion on the project until the next meeting in Salzburg.

B.5 Member associations – Admission of a new members

The Romanian Society of Stomatology has applied for admission to ERO. This society is a regular member of FDI since 2015. ERO has received all documents necessary for the admission. The Board has examined the matter, says Anna Lella, and recommends their admission.

The delegates follow this recommendation without opposition and with one abstention.

B.6 Working groups

1. Relation between dental practitioners and universities

Simona Dianiskova thanks the members of her working group for the help in compiling the data about specializations in Europe.

They took the information from the „EU Manual of Dental Practice“. She thanks Prof. Anthony Kravitz for the great work he has done in this context. There are data from 32 countries on the number of specializations, the institutions providing them, the number of dental institutions, the type and duration of the specialization programs, the requirements and fees for these trainings, examinations and titles, etc. (see presentation <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/madrid-2017/minutes>).

Michael Frank notes that there is obviously a specialization in periodontics in many countries. This is confirmed by both Simona Dianiskova and Anna Lella. There is, however, the problem that, in some countries, the training period is 2 instead of the 3 years required in the guidelines. This is under discussion and processing.

The Working Group will prepare a summary of the responses and send them to the member associations for review. Subsequently, the corrected version is then to be made accessible to all.

2. Liberal dental practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach refers to the article "Liberal dental practice at times of modern forms of dental occupation within the European Regional Organization zone of the FDI"

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and deplores the fact that the article on liberal practice is unfortunately still delayed, since it is still in the examination procedure. As soon as this has been completed, the article will, of course, be made available to all present as both an online and a print version. Naturally, according to Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, we asked ourselves whether it is necessary and sensible to pursue a publication in the International Dental Journal with a view to the length of the review. Especially the critical comments during this process have encouraged us to continue this path. For it is clear to us that not only the numerical results as a basis of our considerations, but rather the political discourse on liberal practice and the dangers associated with new professional practices must be subject to a differentiated view. It appears that the parameters which we use as a basis for our liberal professional exercise, and thus also described in several ERO statements or resolutions of the working group and in the CED Charter of the liberal professions, are or should be fully valid in our ERO Zone, but they are far less important outside Europe. For example, in FDI statements, professional practice, different forms of practices, patient-physician relationship, therapeutic flexibility, medical care centres and external finances play a very subordinate role. The topic "dental profession and thus inherent ethical principles" is only touched in the current FDI papers on advertising or the relationships with the service providers. I consider the fact that in the English version of the FDI statement "service providers and dental professional practice" still stands as a headline "dental practice and third parties" dangerous, because in our professional practice there are only two equal partners; our patients and us. In the age of global networking, it is only a matter of time that principles in professional practice align themselves with the concept of liberal practice. At the European level, we are already experiencing this on a regular basis through the EU, the latest example being the Commission's service package. Reasons enough for the working group to raise awareness on this subject with a study at international level. The subject is, of course, not dealt with conclusively, and the WG has decided that this topic should be dealt with further. Although the survey showed the number of dentists in relation to the number of inhabitants in the ERO zone, this did not give indications of the actual needs in correlation with a working lifetime. Only in this way it would be possible to determine the extent to which a presumed over-supply of graduates at the universities is being trained. The phenomenon of feminization must also be examined further. In the future, female dentists will represent a large majority in their profession. It is simply important to know whether our female colleagues (and, of course, the males) see their professional aim in being self-employed in their own practice or in an employed position. And finally, we must observe the development at large medical centres, e.g. with regard to external capital, from whatever source. In our view, the danger of outside control and thus of the mercantilization of our profession is the greatest in these forms of practices. Under the laws of the market, the role of the patient and the quality of the care are put to the test. The framework conditions for such occupational forms appear to be limitless in all countries of the ERO zone, and this is worrying us. So much to the report of our WG. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach thanks his colleagues for their collaboration, especially the Past Presidents, Gerhard Seeberger and Philippe Rusca and the Youngster of the group, Thomas Wolf, for the academic input he gave in addition to the efforts he undertook to receive his postdoctoral thesis as a private lecturer a few weeks ago. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach is very pleased that they have an input from increasingly younger members in the WG.

Catherine Moajski would like to see the promised results of this study, in which we all took part.

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A scientific publication must follow certain rules, explains Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach. The work is in the second phase of the examination and we hope now for a fast processing.

3. Integration

Because the Russian Dental Association was excluded, Elena Ivanova could no longer be the chairwoman of this group, explains Anna Lella. In Geneva, Vladimer Margvelashvili was ready to act as an intermediary chairman and has now been elected as chairman.

Vladimer Margvelashvili thanks the members of the WG who supported him as chairman. He cannot present any final results and will therefore report on the activities of the last six months. He also expresses his regret at the lack of responses to his survey.

There are many definition of the word “Integration” (see his presentation on the website: <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/madrid-2017/minutes>). On the one hand, one must try to find the same language, so that integration can take place. On the other hand, it is also about integrating the achievements in dentistry in all countries. To make this possible, the various legislations must be observed. He had tried to obtain as much information as possible from his working group members and the representatives of the member associations on this subject. He would be happy to hear more about the experiences in the Baltic countries. According to Vladimer Margvelashvili, the working group is very efficient. He thanks for the support at the meeting this morning.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk criticizes the electoral process and the distribution of votes in the working group. There has be no information about the imminent election of the chairman. Members have not had enough time to prepare, nor has there been a quorum. Only 5 countries were represented on this body, which is not a quorum. Because the internal rules were not followed, 3 countries would no longer want to participate. He calls for a democratic vote and a correct handling of the election process.

Oliver Zeyer, who took part in the meeting, says it was all correct. The list of working group members was published, all had received an invitation and only these could participate in an election procedure. The result of the secret vote is also clear (4: 1 with one abstention).

Not everyone is taken by this lively discussion. Stefaan Hanson suggests that this discussion should be continued between the board and the parties involved and not before the whole assembly. Anna Lella concludes the topic by saying that she will listen to all the reports and then inform about the results. Spontaneous requests to be allowed to participate in this work should be sent by e-mail to the secretariat.

4. Dental Team

The WG has fulfilled its task; there is now something new to tackle. There was a brainstorming on new topics, announces Edoardo Cavallé. Together with the representative from the board, Michael Frank, we were thinking about the future in our profession. What new challenges will our profession face? What does the new generation of dentists expect? What is the future dental team? What new technologies will affect our profession? What about the risk assessment in our practices? To get answers to these questions, we will work with all ERO working groups. The new topic is thus: The future of dental practice / dental practice 2030. The next AG meeting has already been fixed: February 2, 2018 – Frankfurt a.M. – Germany.

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5. Continuing medical education in dentistry

Hande Sar Sancakli presents the next phase of the project introduced in Geneva. The goal was to create a lecture model for congresses and events. This is intended to raise awareness on dental issues, highlight the importance of oral health for general health, and foster cooperation between different health professions. These sessions/lectures should all have the same format. Sessions of 1-3 hours with national or international speakers are proposed. The lecturers are invited by the ERO or the member association / organizer. Hande Sar Sancakli refers, among other things, to an organizational scheme (see also the presentation: <https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/madrid-2017/minutes>), where indications regarding invitation, publication and programme organisation can be found. This template also serves as a planning aid in terms of budget and financing (compensation of the lecturers). Further proposals will be made, which are then sent to the member associations.

The second point of Hande Sar Sancakli's presentation is the "evaluation of the preferred learning formats for continuing medical education in dentistry in the ERO countries". An online survey will be sent out in October. The answers are expected by mid-January 2018, so that the results can be presented at the spring meeting. She already thanks everyone for their support.

6. Quality of care

The results produced by the WG so far can be found on our website, explains Anna Lella. You will also find the guideline for the self-assessment of the quality in the dental practice as well as the article by Barbara Bergmann-Krauss on the quality in dental medicine. The working group has now decided to go in a new direction.

We have based on this self-assessment guide, continues Roland L'Herron the president's comment. Oliver Zeyer provided the Quality Guidelines from Switzerland, which have been developed in collaboration with the professional associations and universities and are to be understood as recommendations, as a search for consensus. In France and Belgium, the approach is quite different. Although he is not a friend of questionnaires, it would be interesting to know the approaches of other countries, says Roland L'Herron. However, we will not elaborate a document that nobody is going to pay attention to, because each country has its own recommendations. The idea is rather to find out whether there are incentives or obligations about the quality in the various countries and who issues or implements them (professional organizations, authority or university). It is therefore planned to have a short questionnaire, which is easy to understand and each member association should then think about what is happening in the field of quality in its country. Roland L'Herron would like to know from the audience whether this approach is reasonable.

Beat Wäckerle - We all speak of liberal practice. In Switzerland, we want to live up to it and not to be told what we must do by authorities and non-specialists. These guidelines serve primarily to assess ourselves. But, of course, there are also laws which oblige us to ensure quality and which, if necessary, are enforced in court. This is precisely the goal, affirms Roland L'Herron. We do not want to make recommendations, but elaborate a kind of overview which gives us then the possibility to see how things are dealt with in other countries.

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In this context, Philippe Calfon recalls the importance of contributing to the definition of standards. FDI has also called for an engagement towards our standardization organization. The creation of harmonized standards gives us the opportunity to write a consensus document with all stakeholders (including the regulatory authorities in the health sector). He appeals to all to join in and not to miss this opportunity to bring in our ideas.

It is not his intention to define any standards, replies Roland L'Herron. The working group has no intention to enter in this discussion. There already exist the Swiss guidelines.

It is positive that we can limit ourselves to the importance of quality on the dental practice, says Michael Diercks. He points to three important additional points. 1. Quality costs money and we can only provide it if the remuneration is adequate. What does it cost per practice per year? 2. Quality management systems cost time and lead to bureaucracy. How much time, which is then possibly not available for the care of the patients, does the practice need? 3. We are dentists, dentistry is an independent sector in medicine, we have hardly intersections with outpatient medical care and with inpatient care in the hospital. We must emphasize our autonomy. Otherwise, regulations that in many places already exist will be transferred one-to-one to the dental sector and that would be a big problem for us all.

Peter Engel cannot help reacting to Philippe Calfon's contribution. He spoke in part correctly of standardization, but did not differentiate, what he refers to. It is very important to distinguish where we apply standardization and where we cannot apply it. When it comes to treatment options and the spectrum of therapies, we can no longer speak of standardization. He would be pleased if the ADEE as a scientific society finally expressed itself to the efforts of the standardization in the therapeutically medical area, which does not belong there. Precisely, the world of scholarship and our professional groups are spending hundreds of thousands of euros to establish quality in the form of evidence based medicine and evidence based dentistry. Here he expects the world of scholarship to position itself against the standardization of treatment steps. We are struggling at all levels and have just been trying to get out of the service package, because the standardization of services cannot include medical and dental services.

The working group simply wants to collect information to see what is already happening in the individual countries, concludes Oliver Zeyer the discussion.

7. Ageing population

Philippe Rusca thanks the members of his group for their support. We are working on a document, which should be a decision-making aid. Although a classification of the elderly patients was made according to GoGo, SlowGo and NoGo, it is not a matter of establishing standards, but pointing out that solutions really need to be individually tailored. Each person is a specific case and it must be tried to do what is feasible. So slowly we achieve small results. Philippe Rusca points to an FDI document entitled "Executive summary white paper on dental caries prevention and management". Thanks to Sophie Dartevelle's help, who has contributed to the elaboration of this document, we have succeeded that the prevention of caries starts with the new-born and is carried on after the age of the so-called adulthood. This is a small success. He invites everyone to participate in this afternoon's symposium on "oral health for aging population". His goal is

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to coordinate our efforts; we do not want to be a competition to FDI. Finally, Philippe Rusca promises to present concrete documents for the next General Assembly.

All reports are adopted unanimously. The President thanks all the chairmen and members of the working groups for their work.

B.6 Plenary sessions

Plenary session 2018 (Spring) – April 13/14, 2018 in Salzburg, Austria

Plenary session 2018 (Autumn) – during the FDI Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina

For 2019 we have an official invitation of the “Bundeszahnärztekammer” to organize the PS in Frankfurt a.M. Then we have an invitation from Kazakhstan for the year 2020. The Kazakh association has confirmed the original offer and would like to organize the meeting in Almaty.

Both proposals are accepted unanimously.

B.7 Miscellaneous

No request to speak.

B.8 Information on FDI matters

Anna Lella refers again to the ERO report, which is attached to the FDI documents. It has also been distributed in the General Assembly A and has thus certainly attracted more attention.

ERO is an important part of FDI and we have many valuable candidates that apply for being (re)elected to different FDI positions.

Gerhard Seeberger, Jaime Edelson, How Kim Chuan, Maria Fernanda Atuesta, Susie Sanderson, Georgios Tsiogkas, Norina Forna, Philippe Calfon and Roland L'Herron take the floor and once again present themselves to the delegates of ERO.

C Close of the meeting - Adjournment

The President thanks the interpreters, who are always a great help to us. She thanks Monika Lang, the ERO Secretariat and Marek Szewczynski, the legal advisor and, of course, all the delegates for their support. She wishes a good congress and is looking forward to seeing all again in Salzburg.

The President:

Dr. Anna Lella

For the minutes:

Monika Lang