



ERO - Plenary session 14th September 2011, Mexico City Canal 10, Centro Banamex Convention and Exhibition

14h15 – 17h15

Minutes

Welcome / opening of the session Α

The president welcomes all participants to this plenary session, which unfortunately takes place in room that is far too small. He apologizes for this inconvenience and for the missing headsets; a situation for which neither the board nor the secretariat is responsible. A complaint will be sent to FDI.

В Agenda of the business meeting

B.1 Roll call – Verification of the quorum

Anna Lella reads the list of delegates. 55 are present, the quorum is established.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

There are no comments on the agenda; it is accepted. Jörg Krainhöfner wishes to add a point under B6: discussion about the financial situation of FDI. This is accepted as well.

B.3 Approval of the minutes of Sofia

The minutes of Sofia are approved without corrections and comments.

B.4 Reports of the Board

This is an active ERO due to its members, declares Gerhard Seeberger. It provides experts to the working groups. There are some well-prepared proposals to be voted on. He hopes they will find the delegates approval.

Anna Lella presents and distributes the new ERO Brochure. It will later be as well on our website. The president thanks Anna Lella for her initiative work and her colleagues from Poland for their contribution. The delegates acknowledge it with a big applause.

Gerhard Seeberger informs that our board member Michael Frank is not with us because of health problems. Peter Engel has good news. Michael Frank is already much better and all delegates wish him a speedy recovery!

Philippe Rusca welcomes all delegates in this telephone-booth-room. He informs that the constitution is now in English, German and French on the website. The French Dental Association

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has agreed to provide us with the French translation of the minutes. Since ERO is now registered in Switzerland, a new bank account will soon be opened. Philippe Rusca further informs about the meeting of the representatives of the regional organisations with the FDI council. The European and the Asian-Pacific organisations are both well off and ERO is the "model pupil" in this structure.

"ERO is the most important organisation of FDI, so the presence of you in the assemblies is essential", points out Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. "It is of great importance to give your opinion, your support and of course your vote."

Anna Lella underlines the importance of communication within our association. "We are working on the website to make it more attractive". She invites the delegates to send information from their countries (like upcoming congresses, etc.) to the secretariat to render the website livelier.

The president communicates that the ERO finances are in good shape. He then presents a paper which has been worked out by Michael Frank and developed by the ERO Board. It shows the ERO working models as a house. Its basement is the liberal dental practice. It is very important that the integration takes place everywhere. That's why it is written on the left side and has "open doors" towards all working groups. After the very emotional discussions of the last days we need to look forward in order to give credibility. Gerhard Seeberger opens the discussion about this paper.

Wolfgang Doneus does not understand why the arrow is cut between dental organisations and NDAs? This is a little error by those who have designed this WG model, explains Gerhard Seeberger.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach was quite touched seeing that the WG LDPE is considered ERO's basement. The liberal dental practice is very important for the development of the individual member states. ERO has further developed and now has a political direction as well. LDPE as basement shall not in any way put in question the work of the other WG.

It seems to Wolfgang Doneus that - according to this paper - the communication is just a matter of the board. But everyone is asked to communicate with FDI, NDAs, etc.

Jürgen Fedderwitz misses the CED. Having a special status, shouldn't it be mentioned as well?

This paper is approved by the majority of the delegates and the president thanks Michael Frank, who has been its initiator.

It will be spread out, announces Gerhard Seeberger. Answering Nick Sharkov's question he affirms that the comments that have been made will be taken into consideration. This paper will stay "under construction".

B.5 Working groups

1. Prevention

After a short introduction by Gerhard Seeberger the WG chairman, Denis Bourgeois, refers to the problems which have been evoked in Sofia. The working group has in the meantime worked on a questionnaire which will be sent to all NDA. The subject of the questionnaire is: Cardiovascular disease and oral health. The group has met on July 27, 2011 in Geneva to discuss this

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problematic. The topic might be followed up in a consensus conference. Denis Bourgeois will keep the delegates informed.

2. Education

Since Alex Mersel is not here, Paulo Melo is presenting this WG.

He explains the main objectives that the group has prosecuted over the last 4 years. It consisted in the project "accreditation"; a questionnaire had been sent out to get answers about responsibilities, provision, approval and re-licensing of continuing education and courses. The second project was and still is the "evaluation". A pilot study has been done; another should be conducted in the future. Further it should be debated and decided on new projects.

Most of the questions remain unanswered, since the chairman of the WG is not present. Like for example the question of Nikolai Sharkov ("why 3 out of 4 countries for the pilot study are outside of Europe?). Paulo Melo apologizes for not being able to answer the questions, but he is quite new in the group and slowly starts to understand how everything works. He agrees with Chris Hayward's proposal to put the questionnaire on the website so everybody can give his opinion. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk thinks we should give the WG a clear plan of action. The work of a WG cannot just be defined by questionnaires. Gerhard Seeberger invites the member associations of ERO to send their competent members to this WG and help to set up a new plan of action.

3. Relation between dental practitioners and university

Nermin Yamalik gives a short review of what has been done until now. The first phase which was the "questioning" of the NDAs is completed. The results of the survey were shown in the PS in Sofia. An article was drafted, it contains an acknowledgement. The article has been accepted for publication in IDJ. This is a good step for the WG and enables us to make our work more visible within FDI, declares Nermin Yamalik. Now comes the 2nd phase which is a dental faculty perspective. The questionnaire has been adapted for dental faculties; we have searched the consent of the NDAs to send this questionnaire. ADEE and the NDAs provided us with lists of dental faculty addresses. 173 received the questionnaire. The complete analysis of this will be presented in the PS in Prague 2012. It is planned in phase 3 to bring national dental associations and dental faculties together in the electronic medium, the ERO Forum. We are working on it to make it user friendly and attractive. There the national dental Associations and the academicians shall discuss the survey results. The Forum will be monitored by moderators. When all phases are finished we will make a statement or a call for action, closes Nermin Yamalik her short presentation.

4. Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst Jürgen Otterbach: Besides the liberal dental practice, a free patient-doctor-relation and a free choice of therapy; the tariff arrangement is an important part of our daily work. Without an adequate financial basis a professional medical treatment and a continuous post grade and advanced training is not possible. This is why the topic "fee schedules" inevitably is an important part of the liberal dental practice. The WG LDPE has decided in its meeting of today to take care of this not very easy topic; to discuss and find out how free or dependent on whatever institution we are in fixing our fees in the different countries of ERO. Under the Headline "deregulation and liberalisation of dental fee schedules within the European context" we will discuss critical aspects regarding the role of dental fee schedules in the countries of ERO. We will ask questions and discuss contents like: is there a necessity of a binding compensation arrangement; do we expect President: Dr. Gerhard Seeberger (Italy) • President-Elect: Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland) • Secretary General: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland)•

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honorariums, salaries or compensations; is there a fundamental contradiction between liberal practice and fee schedules? How can the "conflict" between collective contracts and liberal arrangement of fees be solved? How are these fee schedules designed; what interests have to be considered, only those of the dentists or only those of the patients, the interests of the insurance companies; the amount of the insurance rates; the financial viability of state assistance or just the question of social sustainability? How can we reach a balance between liberal practice, the necessity of realized income – we all want to live with the income of our practice – and external interests of the state, of the insurance companies? Is the limitation of the total amount of fees in the private-patient treatment by a schedule of fee tolerable and does it make sense? And to what extent are the dentists involved in the elaboration and amendment of fee schedules; is there a right to make proposals; are there any hearings, requests of professional competences, etc.?

The only way to get an overview of the situation in the different ERO countries is by conducting a survey. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach hopes that they will get some feedback from this survey and that it will produce some discussible arguments. He made researches which showed that not even on a UE level exist comparable indications regarding fee schedules and arrangement of honorariums in the dental field. The survey that will be conducted in the ERO countries will contain questions like: do fee schedules for dental treatments exist in your country; who is the "author" of these fee schedules, the state, the insurance company, the dentists, the state together with the dentists, the insurance companies together with the dentists, etc. Are fee schedules negotiated with the dentists; do the fee schedules cover the entirety of the dental therapy spectrum or does it only cover the basic care? What therapy measures are included in the basic care; can those that are not included be charged according to an agreement negotiated with the patient; is the fee directly charged to the patient or to a state-run institution? There are many questions. The WG would appreciate the collaboration of the member associations in this very important subject. It is our goal to draw a statement which underlines the request of deregulation and liberalisation of dental fee schedules within Europe. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach emphasizes that it is not the group's intention to compare the fees of the different countries. Each country has a framework which directs the level of fees. We intend to find out how free we are in the framework of our fee schedules and which is our right of decision regarding the establishment of fees in agreement with our patients.

Before deciding on a plan of action, Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach waits for the reaction of his group members and then the questionnaire will be set up. At the next plenary session he hopes to already present some answers. On the basis of these answers the WG will try to work out a statement of a resolution, which will be presented to the delegates.

5. Integration

Elena Ivanowa wishes to refresh the memories of the delegates. The purpose of the group is exchange between the "new" ERO-Countries and ERO. The integration key is communication between these countries and the ERO: We are willing to organize and solidify the relations among these "new" ERO-countries and with the ERO. Our principles are unselfish; our wish is the strengthening and the improvement of the ERO. We expect to know what is going in on in the "new" ERO countries, so we can solve the dental health matters there by having more information. She further informs that in the frame of the Eastern European Dental Congress they are organizing the meeting of the presidents of Eastern European Dental Associations which will be held from 5th to 8th October in Turkey. The presidents of the member countries are very interested and they are getting ready for this meeting in Antalya. She presents the partners of this congress. The Congress in Turkey is a part of the ERO WG Integration work and will help us to clarify the situation in the dental field in those countries by means of discussions with presidents, exchange of ideas and President: Dr. Gerhard Seeberger (Italy) • President-Elect: Dr. Ph. Rusca (Switzerland) • Secretary General: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland)•

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suggestions for our work plan. The main idea is to bring the different countries together around the table to discuss and find solutions to the common problems in dentistry and also to profit from the positive experiences of each other in the various fields of dentistry. We understand that all countries are different; we have different systems of integration and different infrastructure. Elena Ivanowa is happy that there were new participants in the group meeting. She thanks the new members Jürgen Fedderwitz, Edoardo Cavallé, Catherine Mojaiski and Anna Spialek for their

participation.

Some of the delegates are astonished about one of the slides that were shown. Does the the dental hygienists really represent the dentists? No, declares Elena Ivanowa, the DH are – like others - partners for the congress in Antalya. She further explains to a question of Wolfgang Doneus, that the mentioned meeting is of the presidents of the dental associations of former soviet countries and that it is a first step to establish an exchange of ideas and to gather information. It is a chance as well for these presidents to communicate. We must do step by step.

6. Women in dentistry

Anna Lella explains that Vesna Barac-Furtinger could not come because of health reasons. She has asked Anna Lella to give her apologies and to transmit some information. Vesna Barac-Furtinger has prepared a report which is distributed and will be on the website as well. Anna Lella reports shortly about the woman world dental forum that was held today.

7. Quality

Roland L'Herron likes to remind the delegates some basics regarding the work of his group. Health has become an important issue in our daily life. People think about quality of the treatment and patient's safety. In order to assure both quality and security of treatment there have been established more and more severe regulations by the authorities. This happens often under the pressure of the media and without involving the health professionals. Of course an organisation as international and different as ours cannot define quality for everybody and rules to be applied by everyone. It depends on so many things, like the technological or medical level of a country. And even if those should be very good, there is always the possibility to improve it. The working group has fixed an objective which is to define minimal criteria of quality and to help the national associations in establishing some structures and a methodology to impose our conception of quality. The group has exchanged ideas by way of e-mail and has met twice, where it was decided to establish a state of criteria which shall only consist in parameters. To this end a questionnaire has been prepared and sent to the NDAs. Unfortunately not even half of the countries have answered yet. He explains according to the presentation the questions that were made (see presentation annexe to these minutes).

Roland L'Herron hopes that all those who have not yet answered will do it soon and that the WG will be able to build with the gathered information a central database where the answers can be stored and up-dated, because it is no use to ask the same questions all over again.

Alfonso Villa Vigil informs about the situation in Spain. (Unfortunately there were not enough headsets, so the protocolist was not able to register the remarks in Spanish – sorry!)

8. Dental Team

Report by Edoardo Cavallé: There was a meeting in July in Frankfurt, where they discussed about what type of profile must have the dental hygienist or maybe the dental prevention assistant.

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Searching the historical background they only found a resolution from 1974. As from 2012 there will be free movement of persons in the EU and it would be helpful to clarify the position of the dental hygienist in Europe beforehand. What are our professional needs? There are a lot of varieties and the needs depending from situation to situation and from country to country. Should the DH work together with dentists? Can the DH work under the supervision of the dentiat or can she open its own practice? The authorities favour a decrease of the costs for dental treatments and therefore the demand for "cheaper" health workers increases. We should not forget that we took the decision ourselves by adopting two resolutions (one in ERO and the other one in CED). They clearly stated that the DH should work under the supervision of the dentist. We now have to develop a common European perspective on the qualification and tasks of higher qualified member of the dental team besides the DCA. And then we need to describe such a new professional profile, to find a name for it, we need to define its education, training and tasks. It our own decision – the group will meet again in Rome on November 5, 2011.

We did not explicitly talk about the dental hygienist, explains Ralph Wagner; it was more a discussion about a member of the DT on a level between DCA and DH. If we can find a consensus on a pan-european level in this question, we might move further and discuss the DH.

Are we trying to create a new profession, are we trying to create new problems? asks Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. He thinks that it is completely out of question that someone who has studied much less, can open a practice. Are we trying to cut the branch we are sitting on?

There is no going back before 1974, responds Edoardo Cavallé. In some countries this "figure" already exists. Every country is free to do what it wants. The most important thing is now during this year to create something new, somebody new. We are trying to solve a problem that we created years ago and we cannot cut the past. The situation in the different countries varies a lot and it is not easy to find a common "ground". The group has not yet finished its work and he does not want to anticipate the result of their brainstorming.

We live in a different time, remarks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, in a time of trans-boundary treatment possibilities and we have to accept the changes. Nick Sharkov is glad that they do not have such a professional profile in Bulgaria. His idea is not to interfere in the internal affairs of the different countries. Edoardo Cavallé adds that the group does not want to oblige anybody to do anything. They just try to prepare some documents which could be useful if someone needs them in the near future.

Gerhard Seeberger congratulates the WG Dental Team for their forward thinking and wishes good luck for this paper.

B.6 Information on FDI matters

The Austrian delegation has asked to discuss a common position regarding the FDI. Karl-Anton Rezac remarks that already last year we were confronted with alarming news about FDI finances resp. congress figures. It is quite disturbing that the FDI executive committee does not give any account on this money and the figures of the 2010 AWDC. He wants to know if it would be possible to adopt a common resolution. He further criticizes that there is no straightforward answer to the question, who is responsible for the finances (especially congress finances). Tomorrow will be a meeting of the FDI council and delegates from the Brazilian Dental Association. If they do not find a solution, we should clearly state that according to our legal systems we cannot accept such a settlement of accounts. If they should find an agreement, we will – whether we like it or not – have to accept it. Nevertheless he would like to have a common resolution.

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We did not intervene in Assembly A, because we considered it an information only, declares Patrick Hescot; but he promises to deliver a clear opinion tomorrow. Nevertheless we should accept the accounts, because they have been verified by the auditors and the problems were clearly stated. We signed the contract and we have to stick to it; no one obliged us to do it. He is as well of the opinion that it is absolutely inadmissible that the president is not willing to take any responsibility. We should be able to trust each other. There have been promised 10'000 participants for the Mexico congress as well. Where are they? He agrees that such a situation is unacceptable and would like to have it resolved by all means. The persons responsible must assume their obligations.

Alfonso Villa Vigil, Alexander Tolmeijer, Ralph Wagner, Roland L'Herron, Nermin Yamalik, Wolfgang Sprekels, Nikolai Sharkov, Stefaan Hanson, Bartolomeo Griffa, Peter Engel and Haim Neumann comment on the exasperating situation and the attitude of FDI's executive body. The speaker all agree that the president should assume the responsibility. Patrick Hescot thinks it is inadmissible that the executive director can sign such a contract. It seems like the council has never been informed properly. Ralph Wagner would be unhappy if FDI and ABO settled on an arrangement. It cannot be that FDI waives the sum of CHF 700'000 just like that. Peter Engels shares this opinion. There must be a possibility to hold on to this outstanding money. Bartolomeo Griffa even talks about asking the president to resign. The lawyers will tell us if it makes sense to proceed against the Brazilian organisation, remarks Wolfgang Sprekels. He misses an apology by the FDI president. It is unacceptable that a president inculpates the staff of the headquarter and declares not having been informed. Everybody makes errors and it is no disgrace to admit it. Wolfgang Sprekels requests that the ERO president enunciates our disapproval.

B.7 Plenary sessions

2012 – The plenary session will take place in Prague, Czech Republic on April 27/28. All is proceeding well.

2013 – The plenary session will take place in Potsdam, Germany on April 19/20. More information will be given in Prague.

B.8 Miscellaneous

Gerhard Seeberger welcomes the colleagues from Norway. Norway is part of Europe. All NDAs in the region of Europe shall be member of and active in the regional organisation ERO. Norway has a very skilled candidate for the election for FDI committee. One cannot have only the support of the regional organisation; there should be a contribution as well. Gerhard Seeberger hopes that this is a stimulus for being part of this organisation.

ERO and CED are on our agenda assures the vice president of the Norwegian dental association and promises to take back Gerhards Seeberger's thoughts to his council asking for re-evaluation.

Gerhard Seeberger informs: The former president of ERO, José Font-Buxò, has received in June the "Elmer S. Best" award from the Pierre Fauchard Academy in Paris, an award which is given to dentists with special merits in ethics and the improvement of dental health of the population. Congratulations!

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Close of the meeting – adjournment С

Gerhard Seeberger thanks the participants for their collaboration and apologizes again for the inconveniences with this room. He thanks the translators for the precious work and the extra-time. The meeting is adjourned at 17.35.

Dr. Gerhard Seeberger President

Monika Lang Minutes

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