



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



**EUROPEAN REGIONAL ORGANISATION  
OF THE FDI (ERO)  
Minutes of the plenary session held on  
20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> April, 2007  
in Moscow, Russia**

***A Welcome***

Dr. José Font-Buxó greets all persons present, especially the representatives of the host country, the FDI and the CED.

Dr. Vladimir Vagner, president of the Russian Dental Association, welcomes the participants to this plenary session.

Michèle Aerden, president of FDI, is proud of having attended the opening of the 1st Pan European congress. FDI is doing well. She reports about her various activities and thanks all the host countries of her travels over the last two years for their friendly reception. No general health without oral health - this is one of her mottos. She has experienced that pointing out grievances in oral health and conducting an open conversation often brings progress. She is extremely glad that "oral health" figures on the agenda of the next WHO's plenary session. This is the success of hard lobby-work. Now the help of all countries is needed to get this subject through. Michèle Aerden begs for support. This is a great success for our profession. She informs that within all FDI congresses there will be an information day on intellectual disability, because those patients seem often to have troubles in getting dental treatment. There will be quite a lot of important decisions to be taken in Dubai. So she looks forward to seeing all of the delegates there again. She advises them to examine all the election papers carefully. It is important to have a close look at the CVs and to choose the right candidate.

José Font-Buxó proudly presents the new member countries. These are: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republik, Republic of Moldova, Belarus, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and (as associate member) the Association of the Swedish Private Practitioners. This is very important because the national association is not a member of ERO anymore.

***B Presentation of the Russian Dental Association***

Vladimir Sadovsky thanks all ERO delegates for having elected Moscow as the place to have this year's plenary session. He is pleased to welcome them all in his city. He himself, his team and the Russian Dental Association will do their best to bring East and West a little closer together. He presents the Russian Dental Association and its different programs in the field of information and prevention. He emphasizes the importance of many important people from FDI and ERO having participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan European Congress. The exhibition was also a good experience. Unfortunately the Russian government does not recognize this congress as continuing education. He thanks all those that have contributed to this success for their cooperation and support. He hopes that there will be such congresses in the future as well.

Finally, he invites all persons present to take part in the Gala dinner and the tourist activities.

Prof. Mann from Israel, scientific president of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan European Congress, is happy to be here. He thanks Vladimir Sadovsky and the board for the invitation. He had planned an extensive speech on his view of the future of continuing education. He abandons this idea because of the tight schedule. His credo: patients and dentists must work together beyond country frontiers.

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

### **C.1 Roll call/Establishment of the quorum/New members**

Philippe Rusca is pleased to see so many delegates and guests. The quorum is established. There is a personal roll call.

He once again lists the new member countries and expresses his pleasure about the enlargement of ERO.

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

The agenda is approved unanimously.

### **C.3 Approval of the minutes of Shenzhen**

Patrick Hescot takes care of this point of the agenda, because José Font-Buxó was not present in Shenzhen due to health reasons. There were no written requests of amendment and there is no request to speak either. The minutes of the plenary session in Shenzhen are adopted unanimously.

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

### **4.1 President / FDI-Council**

This is his last report. José Font-Buxó looks back on a quite difficult start of this office period. The board and the new secretariat have accustomed to their job very well. He thanks Monika Lang and Philippe Rusca for their efforts. Athens was the first successful plenary session, thanks to Panos Alexiou. The Plenary in Portugal was a very good meeting despite his heart attack. Orlando Monteiro da Silva saved his and ERO's life there. The Shenzhen meeting ran smoothly (thank you Patrick). He thanks Vladimir Sadovsky for the organisation of the present plenary session. He did quite a lot of travelling during his office period and he has had very friendly receptions everywhere.

He points to some important subjects. One is ethics in our profession; a thing indispensable for everyone. His first rule is to smile at the patient. One of his concerns was to eliminate the differences between East and West. He hopes to have achieved his goal in this field, as well as with the website. It has been in existence now for a couple of weeks. He is proud of the working groups who have done a good job. ERO's financial situation is healthy, thanks to Philippe Rusca. The enlargement of ERO is an additional success.

His thanks go to his board for their excellent cooperation. He wishes the new board good luck.

### **4.2 President-elect**

Patrick Hescot notices that the work has been considerably increased during the last couple of years. He emphasizes that the work of the working group chairpersons is extremely important. They are responsible for the team and the accomplishment of their tasks. The first theme of the year during the office period was "prevention". Prevention is important within and outside of the dental practice. ERO supports the member countries in the management of prevention programs.

The next theme of the year was "continuing education". We have the monopoly in this field, nevertheless it is an obligation as well. Of course continuing education is not possible without the cooperation of the Dental industry. It is important to keep the control of continuing education in the practitioner's hands.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> theme of the year, which will be treated tomorrow, is "quality". All aspects of quality will be discussed. The dentist is not only a person that repairs; he checks the patient's health in its integrity. Since quality is also part of standardisation, ERO will have a liaison status with CEN.

He closes his speech by praising his predecessor as an excellent President. Thanks to him ERO is healthy. Patrick Hescot will try to continue José Font-Buxó's work.

### **Adaptation of ERO-constitution**

These are only minor technical amendments, which FDI has asked us to apply (see attached document). All of these are accepted without comments.

Nico Diederich suggests to take this opportunity to replace „DLC“ by „CED“. Patrick Hescot will take care of it.

### **4.3 Secretary general**

Philippe Rusca's report is registered on the Website. There were no special events in the last 3 years. He is pleased that even the FDI communiqué published results of one of our working groups. The new ERO website is born. It's not yet perfect but we are working on it. It will be a good working instrument. He repeats his request to let the secretariat know all changes in addresses and to confirm having received an e-mail.

Edoardo Cavallé thanks for the help of ERO in creating the website. It was intended to keep it as simple and comprehensible as possible. He makes a short presentation. There are still some organisational questions to be answered regarding the website. Questions and helpful suggestions are to be passed to the secretariat.

### **4.4 Members of the Board**

Simona Dianišková reports about her experiences in the board during the last 3 years. The work was divided among the member; each one has been in charge of one or more working groups. She takes the opportunity to thank everybody for their active collaboration.

According to Bedros Yavru-Sakuk the board has achieved several important goals in the past period of office. This is to reach a common opinion, the finding of unified working methods and to improve the image of ERO.

## **C.5 Member countries**

### **5.1 National reports**

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk refers to his written reports published on the ERO website.

Vjekoslav Jerolimov from Croatia asks to remove the sentence on page 2 of Bedros Yavru-Sakuk" report that starts with "In addition....". Bedros Yavru-Sakuk will take care of it.

## **C.6 Presentation of the candidates for the ERO Election**

José Font-Buxó presents the electoral table: Alex Mersel, Barbara Bergmann-Krauss and Vesna Barac-Furtinger. The delegates agree with this proposal.

In addition to the documents published on the website all candidates get the floor to present themselves.

Simona Dianiskova is running for President elect. She will resign from her post as president of the chief dental officers if she is elected.

Gerhard Seeberger is also running for President elect. He represents the AIO (Associazione Italiana Odontoiatri). Born in Germany he came to Italy when dentistry was introduced as a field of study in the Italian universities. He considers prevention as one of the most important subjects to be treated by ERO.

Philippe Rusca is the only candidate for the post of general secretary. Most of the people present know him. He has been general secretary for the last three years. His intention is to work and not to collect awards and distinction. Many aims have been achieved, but it is still possible to improve. That's why he asks to grant him a second period of office.

There are four candidacies for the two vacant posts of member of the board.

Bartolomeo Griffa has been working for the Italian Dental Association for many years. Soon he will be elected vice-president. With the support of his association he is running for office and ready to bring in all the experience he has gathered in many different domains.

Alex Mahinson comes from Israel, he studied Riga. He has been working as an anaesthesiologist in the dental field and had his own private dental practice. Today he is working (among other things) for a big insurance company. He has expert knowledge in the dental field and in management.

To Nico Diederichs' question regarding his date of birth and his formation Alex Mahinson answers that he is a dentist as well as a specialist in anaesthesiology, that he studied in Riga, where he obtained the title of DMD.

Vladimir Sadovsky finished his studies 22 years ago in a city that is very far away from Moscow. He now has his own private practice in Moscow. The number of private dentists is steadily increasing in Russia. This has an effect on the relation towards Europe. If he is elected, he will do everything to defend and improve the rights of dentists vis-à-vis the government.

Ashot Gevorgyan announces that this morning the Armenian Dental Association has withdrawn its support of Bedros Yavru-Sakuks' candidacy. Therefore, there are not four but only three candidates. The president of the Armenian Dental Association has taken this decision.

The announcement is followed by a discussion among the delegates.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk does not wish to make comments.

## **C.7 Working groups**

Patrick Hescot once again emphasizes the importance of the working groups and their tasks.

### **7.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe**

Voicu David recapitulates his report already published on the website. A new draft of a resolution regarding "External interference in dental practice" (see attachment) is presented.

Edoardo Cavallé wants to know how big the non-dental shares in dental practices and clinics are and what the damage to our profession respecting the influence on the quality of the dental treatment might be.

The questionnaire has been only finished a short time ago, answers Voicu David. The working group hopes that the resolution will be used on three different levels: in dealing with the authorities; vis-à-vis the members and finally and most important for the information of the patients; that they know where the money goes to. We must guarantee that we can meet with the social needs of the people. Our main goal is the dental care of the patients.

In Spain we succeeded by intensive lobby work in persuading the government to set a limit – at least 75% of those so-called big clinics must be owned by dentists, declares José Font-Buxó.

This is one of the most important goals of our profession, confirms Panos Alexiou. He congratulates the working group for its efforts in this regard. He would like to add some amendments to the text. It is extremely important that the primary needs of the patients be covered by the dentist alone and that there is no influence from outside.

Voicu David thanks Panos Alexiou for his comments and proposes to let him have the amendments in a written form.

The Austrians know this problem too, states Jörg Krainhöfner. This is why such a resolution would be very helpful. At the moment an Austrian case is being judged by the European High Court.

Nicolai Sharkov assumes that there will be more and more such problems to be solved. Especially those countries that have this kind of problems should participate in this working group. He would be glad to help.

Voicu David thanks for all the suggestions. The resolution will be ready to vote on in Dubai. He is grateful for all amendments and suggestions and asks that they be submitted in a written form.

### **7.2 ERO Parity**

In addition to her report Simona Dianišková explains the new questionnaire. It is a comparison between data from all over Europe aiming to compare the expenses in the dental practices. Germany,

Switzerland, Italy, Poland, Croatia and Slovakia provided the basics. The results will be published on the website.

Anna Lella will take over the presidency of this working group. She presents herself and her goals. She represents the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists. She intends to carry on the work of her predecessor. ERO is a big family and the members should get to know each other better. If every country contributed, all could get something useful out of it. She further intends to cooperate actively with other working groups.

### **7.3 ERO Enlargement**

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk refers to his written report. They tried their best to „recruit“ new members and he is very pleased that these efforts are crowned with success. He welcomes all new member associations. Now contact persons are needed. They should contact the chairpersons of the working groups and ask - where it is necessary - for support. These contacts should not only take place at meetings like this, but all the time. He thanks the members of his working group and the delegates for their support and cooperation.

Patrick Hescot congratulates Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and his team for their excellent work. To have six new members is a great success.

### **7.4 Prevention**

It is not Claude Bouchet, who is absent due to illness, but Denis Bourgeois, who represents this working group here in Moscow. He recapitulates what has been done during the last couple of years. A questionnaire has been elaborated which sums up the prevention all over Europe. A resolution was adopted in Athens in 2005. At the meeting in Porto a global prevention plan was established which can be used completely or in parts by all countries. This is only a part of the projects that have been realised. Information is very important in the dental health field as well and this is why we would like to take part in the program of the European commission regarding the development of health indicators. For the fight against tobacco consumption, we propose to work together with the working group „Education“ and we hope to work out common strategies and measures. There are different kinds of prevention measures in every country. The working group will not try to unify them, but to draw some conclusions and to share the experiences.

Prevention is a very important subject, Patrick Hescot agrees and he would very much like to organise a “day of prevention” in every country.

### **7.5 Quality Management**

Since the day of tomorrow is dedicated to the subject of “quality” Francisco Rodriguez-Lozano only gives a short statement. The work of the quality group is not easy. Quality is quite a delicate subject and comprises a lot of different characteristics. It has been noted that in almost all countries exist some sort of control system; often they deal with aspects of the administration of the clinics or the quality of the materials and not really with the quality of the treatments. Each country has its own system and it is difficult to reach harmonisation on a European level. Nevertheless the working group will try to work out useful recommendations. Maybe it would be best just to pick up specific clinical aspects. This is why there are consensus conferences planned that have exactly this aim. It is intended that experts from different countries participate and define quality standards for those specific aspects. Regarding the control systems it is important to include the administration as well. Philippe Calfon will act as coordinator. In Spain, standardisation aspects have been examined and it was noted that one must not forget ethics. These things are missing now and it would be advisable to have a liaison person from ERO. The working group will have a new chairperson and it is open for new members and new topics.

### **7.6 Basic + continuing education**

Alex Mersel is mainly referring to this report on the website. As mentioned therein, risk management does belong to the WG „Dental Team“ and not to the „Education“ group.

Alex Mersel is open for comments regarding the charter, but would prefer to have them in a written form. He thanks the members of his working group and the board for their active support. Vjekoslav Jerolimov is a new member of the group.

Alex Mersel has been told that the English and French versions of the Charta do not correspond. Stefaan Hanson will provide the respective remarks. Alex Mersel will then check the translation.

Wolfgang Sprekels asks a question of principle. There are many requirements that have to be fulfilled before the accreditation of a congress or a course. This seems okay to him. There are many national regulations and laws, too. In order to be able to have an accreditation these must be harmonized. If this Plenary session approves an ERO accreditation - who is going to do the work? Do we have the infrastructure and the manpower to do this? He fears that with the actual status this would not be possible. We would first of all need more employees.

Our goal is to present a charter that every country could make use of, explains Patrick Hescot. We do not want to take the place of the national associations, but we would like to provide them with an instrument that allows them to have those accreditations. There are countries where continuing education and its control are already dictated.

Wolfgang Sprekels refers to the text. In point X an accreditation by ERO is mentioned. He repeats his question: who is going to do it? Patrick Hescot once again emphasizes, that the national association will be in charge of it and not the ERO. The idea is good, the implementation a bit complicated, declares Wolfgang Sprekels.

Alex Mersel thanks his host, Vladimir Sadovsky. History has been written by organising the 1<sup>st</sup> Pan European congress, he declares proudly. There has been a good participation (more than 1300 participants) and it has been very well organised. He hopes that there will be such congresses in the future too and he thanks all that have contributed to this success.

### **7.7 Women in Dentistry**

Vesna Barac-Furtinger informs that her working group has prepared a study this year. It refers to the demographic tendencies in the European dentistry and the impact of the feminisation of dentistry. She thanks Patrick Hescot for his helpful suggestions and ideas. She gives a short summary of this study: 56% of all people in Europe are women; the feminine part in dentistry is 69%. The number of feminine students is steadily increasing, but unfortunately there is no exact data. The number of women working part time is increasing, too. Women are better students, but nevertheless their representation among specialists and decision-taking jobs is insufficient; even though there are some women in the position of dean. Vesna Barac-Furtinger is disappointed by the small number of questionnaires sent back.

Online education is very important for women. This offers far more possibilities and must therefore be supported.

There are two new members in this working group. Of course men are very welcome to participate as well.

### **7.8 Dental Team**

According to Patrick Hescot there are several subjects that are important for the future of ERO and can be split in three main groups: the division of the different tasks of the members of the dental team. It is important to define exactly each one's role. The second part is the professional responsibility of the dentists. They have to deal with many matters; they are confronted with litigations and lawsuits. It is important to know which are the rights and duties of the dentist and which are the rights and duties of the patient. This is the reason why we have recently elaborated this questionnaire. It is being updated now and the will be sent out anew by this working group. The third subject is the development of our professional structures. The claims of the patients, insurance and the influence of governments are steadily increasing. This asks for adequate technical conditions. They have to be adapted as well. In addition we have a demographic problem; some countries have too many dentists, some countries not enough. We must take care that the responsibility always stays in the hands of the dentist. This is where collaboration with the Working groups „Liberal dental practice“ and „Quality“ is required.

We would like to have as many people in this WG as possible. Hopefully it will be assembled before the summer holidays, so that the discussion can be continued in Dubai.

Wolfgang Sprekels inquires about the aims of this questionnaire about risk management. Does ERO intend to offer their members professional liabilities insurance with much better conditions?

The cooperation with this insurance company has been stopped for the time being, informs Patrick Hescot. We wanted to know what kind of protection mechanisms the different association offer their

members. There are many different systems and methods. Maybe the results of the questionnaire would help the countries to improve their own system.

Wolfgang Sprekels acknowledges this new point of view.

The questionnaire itself does not give any problems; it is more the way in which it was presented, explains Ralf Wagner, that caused an uneasiness. The fact that it has been sent out by an insurance company. One is reluctant to give data, which usually would not be shown to an insurance company.

Patrick Hescot agrees; that is the reason why it has been stopped.

Edoardo Cavallé refers to a similar questionnaire issued by the CED. We could use this one and then compare the answers. Of course, we will discuss it with the president of CED, declares Patrick Hescot. We will try to avoid duplications and reach as much conformity in this respect as possible. This is confirmed by Orlando Monteiro da Silva.

## **7.9 Approval of the chairpersons of the working groups and the theme of the year 2008**

The chairpersons of the working groups have a heavy job to fulfil. They must see to it that the chosen themes are intensively treated and results are achieved. Often there are new methods to be found in order to perform a certain task.

The following chairpersons are confirmed in office: Voicu David for "Liberal Dental Practice in Europe", Anna Lella for "Parity", Bedros Yavru-Sakuk for "Enlargement", Denis Bourgeois for "Prevention", Gerhard Seeberger for "Quality", Alex Mersel for "Basic and Continuing Education", Vesna Barac-Furtinger for "Women in Dentistry". There is only the working group "Dental Team" without a chairperson so far.

The board proposes "risk management" as theme of the year 2008. This proposal is accepted unanimously.

## **C.8 ERO-Elections - Electoral committee**

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk withdraws his duly submitted candidacy. There has been a misunderstanding which hopefully can be solved. He is grateful for all the support he had over the last years. The delegates on their part express their gratitude by a big applause.

The Elections: Alex Mersel announces that 71 delegates having a right to vote are present. The majority is 36 votes.

The results:

President elect: 63 ballot papers are collected; 1 empty, 42 vote for Gerhard Seeberger and 20 for Simona Dianiskova.

General Secretary: Since Philippe Rusca is the only candidate he is elected by acclamation.

Board members: There are 3 candidates running for 2 seats. 1<sup>st</sup> ballot: 63 ballot papers are collected, 1 empty, 33 vote for Vladimir Sadovsky, 25 for Bartolomeo Griffa and 4 for Alex Mahinson. Vladimir Sadovsky is elected.

2<sup>nd</sup> ballot: 63 ballot papers are collected, 1 empty, 42 vote for Bartolomeo Griffa and 30 for Alex Mahinson. Bartolomeo Griffa is elected.

## **C.9 Information about FDI-Elections**

In Dubai there will be elections. Each candidate present can have the floor to make a short presentation.

Roberto Vianna is applying for president elect of the FDI. His presentation is supported by the President of the Brazil Dental Association. He thinks South America should have a better representation in the FDI and there has never been a FDI president from that region so far.

FDI elections are as important as ours, thinks José Font-Buxó. As ERO President, Patrick Hescot must be elected to the Council and he invites all persons present to support him.

Patrick Hescot thanks the members for their support. ERO of course has its own life. It must nourish the FDI with its work while being a relay for the FDI within Europe.

Alex Mersel will re-run for the FDI council in Dubai. He thinks it is crucial that Europe is given the opportunity to stand up for its cultural and ethical values. He reminds the efforts of certain parties to abolish French and German as official languages. If there is no opposition this will be the end of the traditional FDI. That's why he would be grateful for any support of this candidacy.

Nermin Yamalik from Turkey presents herself. She is running for a seat in the education committee and thanks in advance for supporting her.

Edoardo Cavallé is also running for a post, in the FDI Dental Practice Committee.

Having been elected president of CED Orlando Monteiro da Silva will resign as FDI councillor. Therefore it is even more important that Europeans will be elected in FDI charges.

## **C.10 Finances**

### **10.1 Settlement of accounts 2006**

Philippe Rusca is most pleased to present a good result. This is partly due to the fact that many expenses of the Board members are covered by their national associations. The biggest "item" usually is the expenses for the plenary session. The 2006 accounts present a profit of approx. 13'000€ ERO has reserves; the money is in a Swiss bank. We need a certain amount of reserves in order to finance special projects. The website needs perfection. Translations are very costly; that's why only main reports are being translated. Should the English written reports cause problems, the delegates will sure have somebody at hand in their association who is capable of helping out. The treasurer would like to keep the membership fees at the same level as the previous year and he intends to stick to the FDI calculation system.

The accounts 2006 are approved unanimously.

### **10.2 Outstanding fees**

There are none.

### **10.3 Budget 2007**

The budget 2007 is based on previous accounts. It is accepted unanimously.

## **C.11 Next meetings**

### **11.1 Plenary session 2007, Dubai**

The next plenary session will take place in October during the FDI congress in Dubai.

### **11.2 Plenary session 2008**

There are two candidacies. Turkey (Istanbul) and Armenia (Yerevan) are applying for hosting next years plenary session; Italy (Rome) postpones to 2009.

Ashot Gevorgyan presents Yerevan/Armenia. They dispose of all necessary infrastructure and the Armenians would be happy to welcome all ERO delegates in their country.

Taner Yücel presents Turkey. The year 2008 will be a special year for the Turkish Dental Association because it will be celebrating its hundredth birthday. Istanbul is the city where East and West meet and it is the perfect spot for organising events as the ERO plenary session. He hopes that the delegates will support his application.

The date is fixed at the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

The Armenian president asks for a ballot vote. The result is: 8 votes for Armenia, 49 for Turkey. Taner Yücel is happy and thanks his colleagues.



### **11.3 Plenary session 2009**

Edoardo Cavallé presents Rome as candidate for hosting the 2009 plenary session. This is the only candidacy for 2009 so far. A decision will be taken next year in Istanbul.

### **C.12 Miscellaneous**

#### **D Close of the meeting/Adjournment**

José Font-Buxó closes the meeting. He thanks Alex Mersel, his "personal advisor", for the support during the last 3 years as well as all participants for their cooperation.

Dr. Patrick Hescot  
President

Monika Lang  
Minutes

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