



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO-Plenary Session
11th/12th April, 2014, Paris, France
Hyatt Regency Paris Etoile

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

Philippe Rusca, president of ERO, welcomes all delegates, alternates and special guests to this plenary session in Paris. On the occasion of ERO's 50th birthday it was planned to invite Jean-Claude Juncker, former Prime Minister of Luxemburg and candidate for presidency of the European council to give the opening speech today. Unfortunately, he could not come and send his apologies.

The British Dental Association as well as the Flemish Dental Association send their apologies.

A.2 Chairman of the commission of international affairs of the ADF

Roland L'Herron, chairman of the commission of international affairs of the French Dental Association thanks for the opportunity to be present at this 50th anniversary of ERO. He gives a brief review of ERO history and involvement of the French Dental Association in International structures. Liberal practice has always been one of the most important values of dental medicine in France. He underlines the word "medicine", to which the dental profession belongs. We must ensure that the "services" we provide to our patients continue to be considered medical acts. ADF is very concerned about the general deregulation trend of liberal professions by governments and EU. Our first concern must be our patients' well-being. Another worrying issue is the professional demography in Europe. Not every country forms a number of dentists that is adequate to its needs. The free movement of persons leads to a disequilibrium in countries that have always been very observant to their needs and quality of their professional education. This is a problem that concerns all of Europe, i.e. ERO and CED. Together with our institutions and governments, we have to keep these developments in our hands and make concrete proposals. Free movement yes, but not at all costs. ERO may not be able to solve those problems, but it is an important forum of exchange of information and opinion in the field of health politics. He concludes wishing a long life to ERO!

Philippe Rusca thanks Roland L'Herron for his pointed remarks.

A.3 Greetings of guests

Former ERO presidents were invited to attend this special plenary session. Peter Müller-Boschung, José Font-Buxò, Patrick Hescot and Gerhard Seeberger are present. Erik Schmölker and Jean Jardiné sent their apologies. Adolf Schneider and Jacques Monnot are not able to participate because of health reasons. Philippe Rusca reads their letter of apology.

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A special welcome goes to Michèle Aerden and Orlando Monteiro da Silva, former FDI presidents, Jean-Luc Eiselé, FDI executive director, Wolfgang Doneus, CED president and Jérôme Rotgans, former ESDE president and currently AGAS president, which will later give a lecture.

B Presentation by the French Dental Association

Catherine Mojaïsky, president of the « Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires » presents the French dentists' organizations and the health system. Here a very short résumé of her presentation, which can be found on the ERO website. There are 3 main dental organizations in France. The national public system is funded by social contributions; taxes ensure social protection and access to health care to all citizens. It is based on solidarity. Social security has 4 branches, sickness, work accidents, pension and family. There is a mandatory and a complementary health insurance and a state medical aid (AME). She explains the organization of care and expenses, the sectors of regulated and free fees. A new classification of all medical procedures including all dental procedures will be implemented on 1st June.

She hopes that these explanations of the French system may have shown, the reason why sometimes the French delegation is very reserved regarding certain matters

Philippe Rusca thanks Catherine Mojaïsky for her exposé.

No, the agenda was officially changed on 23 March. I think that this point has to be moved after point C7. FDI.

C Standard agenda of the business meeting

C.1 Roll call

Establishment of the quorum

Hans Schrangl does the roll call. 60 delegates are present; the quorum is achieved.

C.2 Approval of the agenda

There is a change in the agenda at the request of the French Dental Association. Catherine Mojaïsky will present the French Association, but she cannot be here today. So point B of the agenda is postponed to Saturday morning. With this change, the agenda is approved.

Bernard Munnix and Bartolomeo Griffa are the appointed scrutineers.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of Istanbul

The minutes of the plenary session are approved without changes. The president thanks the secretary for this work. It is not always easy to resume the sometimes emotional discussions.

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C.4 Reports of the Board

Philippe Rusca refers to the brochure "50 years of ERO", elaborated by the board and consisting of already existing texts and new complements. Several copies have been put on the tables and are intended to be taken home by the delegates of the national dental associations present here in Paris.

The president reports about his visit at the FDI headquarter, various WG and board meetings. Barbara Bergmann-Krauss was invited to attend last board meeting in order to present her paper regarding "quality in dentistry", which can also be found on the ERO website. The research she has done is very good and very professional and it shows that the issue of "quality" goes a long way back. It will be referred to as well in the point "working groups".

Much to the president's regret only a few people joined the meeting of the WG LDPE in Geneva. Some of the working groups show a great number of members only on the paper!

Philippe Rusca finally points to the paper, which has been distributed by Nermin Yamalik regarding „evidence based dentistry“. This is an important task and she will report on it later in the point "reports by the working groups".

C.5 Finances

5.1 Settlement of accounts 2013

At first, Michael Frank thanks Philippe Rusca for his excellent leadership. It is a pleasure working with this board, even though not everybody is always of the same opinion; but a satisfactory solution for all can usually be found.

He gives some explanation regarding the 2013 accounts, which show again a positive result with a benefit of € 10'870.87. Our auditor, Enrico Lai, has checked the accounts and signed the report that states that the accounts are in order. Michael Frank thanks him for his work. He underlines that the ERO board endeavors to use ERO finances as economically as possible.

There are no question. The accounts are approved unanimously as well as the vote of discharge of the board.

5.2 Outstanding fees

5.3 Budget 2014

The membership fees 2014 will be the same as in 2013 and the delegates unanimously adopt the budget.

Philippe Rusca thanks Michael Frank for his efforts to keep ERO finances healthy.



C.6 Working groups

Philippe Rusca expresses his thanks to all members and chairpersons of the WG for their collaboration and support.

6.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach introduces the new topic of his WG. Electronic data accompanies and follows us throughout our daily life; it is stored and saved in many places. We, as medical persons, do have to treat our patient's data with the highest caution and respect. Especially in the field of patient's health data, we have to be extremely careful, how to handle it. Data protection is a topic of CED; but since it is a very important issue, which should be discussed and made aware of as well outside of the EU borders, the WG LDPE has taken it up as well. Before presenting the statement Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach expresses a critical remark regarding the position of CED. The working group completely agrees with the distribution of a letter to all CED member organizations. However (?) it has a different opinion regarding the change of a part in the General Data Protection Regulation which states that the patient's consent to a treatment means automatically consent to processing the patient's personal data. Even though it is afterwards stated that previously made more severe prescriptions have priority, this is considered a minimisation of data protection and impedes an active and self-dependent contribution of the patient to protect his own personal data. This is why this part should be deleted. There is still time to do so. Discretion is a very important part of the confidence that should reign between patient and doctor.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach presents the draft statement which includes 13 requests. It is published on the website and will be sent to the NDA. It will be discussed again and voted in Delhi.

It is very important to discuss this matter, even if there might be no uniform opinion. Philippe Rusca thanks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach for his efforts.

Jörg Krainhöfner deplors that this draft statement has not been distributed before the plenary session. Since he has been involved in this paper he wants to comment Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach's critic. There is a reason for this part: a German member of the European parliament requested that all dentists should be obligated to ask every patient for his written consent to register his personal data in the medical records.

Of course we do not want to increase the paperwork, remarks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, but data abuse and data theft is a daily issue. He reminds that we are responsible for processing patient's data and we need the patient's consent as well to protect ourselves.

Philippe Calfon agrees and underlines the importance of an accurate record keeping in order to describe and "track" a treatment or sometimes to identify victims of a natural catastrophe.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk proposes changes in the wording. Since this is only a draft, amendments can still be made, remarks Philippe Rusca.

6.2 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Nermin Yamalik presents the new project of her WG which is about "evidence based dentistry".

She comments the survey which has been made in 5 pilot countries (France, Georgia,

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Portugal, Slovakia and Turkey) within the ERO-zone and a dynamic 'model' list of EBD resources work. Emphasis is placed on Evidence-Based Dentistry (EBD) and its implementation to daily practice. The outcome of this survey can be seen in the presentation posted on the ERO website.

Jürgen Fedderwitz: does still not know what EBD is. It is a big discussion even in scientific circles. Many things that have been developed "in vitro" do not work "in vivo". We need a definition of evidence based dentistry. The question what we understand with this term should be answered first.

Very good documents exist regarding this question, answers Nermin Yamalik. EBD is not as immature as it was 10 years ago. She will share what she has collected regarding this subject. EBD is a neologism, declares Peter Engel. Experience is the basis of our life and work. What is taught at the universities should always ground on experience. EBD is what we do.

Terminology and definition have changed over the years, answers Nermin Yamalik. It is not just data. She states the example of the osteoporosis patient who asks for implants; you may look for information in the existing publications and receive a thousand answers by checking the respective fora. With EBD I can eliminate those publications which are just studies and are not evidence based. And those remaining may give you the answers to your questions. Each of us may benefit in a different way of EBD. It is a topic that creates discussion, but in fact EBD should just serve to support our decisions.

6.3 Integration

Elena Ivanova gives a short historical outline of the work of the WG (see presentation on the website). The main principle of integration is taking the best experience from each ERO FDI country. She reports about the manual and the last meeting. The WG is trying to do practical implementation of prevention programs in Eastern European countries. There is a basis of programs from other countries, but it is impossible to just take them over because the specificities of the different countries must be taken into account. Next meeting of the WG will be on May 15th in Irkutsk.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk as former supervisor of the WG thanks Elena Ivanova. It is not a simple task, he congratulates her for her work.

6.4 Prevention

Denis Bourgeois is glad that there are finally more people taking part in the WG meetings. He reports about Strategies and Perspectives of valorization of former ERO Prevention Group. The Health Card which is a practical tool that can be available in Europe. It is capable of educating NCD professionals' -diabetes and CVD-, patients, dentists and students. There has been some polemic about this subject, but following a meeting of Philippe Rusca with FDI leaders in Geneva, FDI agreed that the group can use the health-card without restrictions and develop this project.

Prevention program in Eastern countries –a congress will be organised in Armenia in October and another event in Moscow where prevention will be presented and discussed.

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The pilot project “observatory for oral health prevention and control” has been presented on several occasions. Following a meeting of Philippe Rusca with FDI leaders (T.C. Wong, Patrick Hescot and Jean-Luc Eiselé) in Geneva, FDI will take the leadership. Under the responsibility of Dr. P. Hescot, it will start soon and the collaboration of ERO member-countries will be required.

Philippe Rusca confirms the willingness of ERO to cooperate with FDI. He thanks Denis Bourgeois for his report and his efforts in leading this WG.

6.5 Quality in Dentistry

This working group has been suspended for a while, informs Philippe Rusca, but nevertheless some work has been done. He refers to the paper prepared by Barbara Bergmann-Krauss on “Quality in dentistry”. It is to be found on the ERO website. The board will soon decide how this working group shall proceed.

6.6 Continuing medical education

Hande Sar Sancakli is glad to present the new working group and its goals which are to support member organizations in providing the best possible oral and general health to patients and to promote activities in member associations based on scientific advancements. They plan to send out a questionnaire on the dental practitioners’ attitudes and their dental education.

In the WG meeting they discussed to rename the group in “continuing medical education in dentistry”.

Philippe Rusca thanks for the report and the suggestions about the new name, which the Board will discuss at their next meeting.

6.7 Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé reports about last WG meeting in Vienna and a very good participation of the members. In Istanbul they were mandated to discuss on the profile of dental hygienist. The question is “DH yes or no?” and how to bridge two professions. After a brain storming, the WG has agreed that the DHs already have a clear independent professional role cooperating with the dentist in oral health care in some member countries; DHs already have a clear learning outcome profile in some countries; the DH Diploma is a degree according Bologna process in some member states and in some European Countries the DH can work independently.

The majority of the members of the WG “Dental Team” believe that an education as a DH on a bachelor level does not make sense; they rather prefer an on-the-job training within the scope of an advanced further training.

For all these reasons they started considering to respect standards and decisions of Oral Care Prevention Standard Systems in European countries, continuing on the path to create a new common agreed profile established by dental professional associations : a tool to be used only if needed! He underlines the statement “delegation yes, substitution no”.

Philippe Rusca emphasises that no member country shall be obliged to create and train DH, but if a member of ERO is in need, a profile should be ready.

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Usually we are talking about Europe, but on that point every country should be able to act on its own, remarks Roland L'Herron. He would like to know the real situation in the other countries. Does it work? „Delegation yes, substitution no“ are just words. How far does delegation go?

After having discussed this topic many times it results that there are 3 groups, those that are clearly against DH, those that admit their existence, but would like to have the lead in the education of this profession and those that are in favour and some of those that even want to give (or have already given) them the independency, resumes Ralf Wagner. The different opinions cannot be eliminated, but the discussion should now lead to a solution. Maybe we should just go ahead and create a profile which bases on the on-job-training.

Despite all that is written in regulations and regulatory statutes we must look at the reality, reminds Wolfgang Sprekels. Many medical acts as applying insulin medication on a diabetes patient suffering additionally from a heavy Parkinson disease are being carried out by health personnel and not by the doctor. Especially in homes and hospitals this will be more and more the case, as well as in the field of dental care. So this is reality –the dental nurse, dental prevention assistant or DH providing these services.

DH does not exist in Belgium, remarks Michèle Aerden. Important are the chairside assistant and the dental prevention assistant. Aware of the power of the DH lobbying, dentists in Belgium will have difficulties keeping the actual status once such a profile is written. Wouldn't there be a possibility just to keep the existing terms of dental personnel, such as DCA and DPA? Giorgios Tsiogkas supports her. Why do we create a new profession which is potentially against us? He suggests making a survey to find out which of the NDA's wants this new profile.

Edoardo Cavallé concludes. Whether we want DH or not, the profession exists. It is not a question of approving this profession. The danger is that there will be a profile which is not ours. We must keep control and should be ready to have arguments and a plan when – in the different member countries - the discussion comes up.

C.7 FDI

Patrick Hescot informs about the FDI. He is glad to announce that the finances are healthy again and that ~~a new external auditor~~ an internal audit Task Team has been appointed. It is not FDI's goal to accumulate a great fortune, but a certain amount of provision is necessary. It is still to be defined how much this should be. There will be a meeting of the finance committee in the near future. He further informs that the headquarter has moved to new premises which will allow a saving of about 150'000 CHF per year for room rental

He reports about the situation with ABO. They were expelled because of non-payment of their membership fees. There is now a last deadline which expires at the end of April. If ABO wants to be readmitted they have to pay their dues. Patrick Hescot reminds to clearly distinguish between Brazil and ABO.

The relationship between FDI und WHO has been re-strengthened. 106 countries participated in the WOHD; compared to the previous year where there were only 37 countries, this is a

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great success. He closes his presentation (which can be found on the ERO website) with promoting the WADC in India and thanks Taner Yücel as president of the 2013 congress, which has proved that the new congress financing model can be successful.

Taner Yücel is glad that they were able to contribute to the positive financial situation of FDI and thanks for this information. He hopes that this model will continue in a successful way. He will also talk about it in India. WOHD was very successful in Turkey as well. The situation of sponsorship however could need some improvement.

Michael Frank is glad that ERO finances are again in good shape. He pleads for more transparency. It is not a matter of discrediting someone, but the NDAs have a right of getting more information. For Delhi and for the future he wishes to receive better and comprehensible reports what sums were promised, paid or lost.

That's exactly what the audit is made for, confirms Patrick Hescot. Independent experts shall have a look at it. Information should be given beforehand to enable the delegates to make questions. However, the old stories should now be closed. A risk analysis should prevent those situations that have happened in the past.

Peter Engel wants to know if the congress in India is financially secured and Patrick Hescot confirms that the organizing association signed the agreement and made the advance payments. The exhibition is fully booked and there are already 6500 registrations to the congress. To Roland L'Herron who wants to know how the congress venues are chosen, he says that every NDA can make a bid. The council then decides. Of course there is a close contact with dental industry which finally takes a considerable part in the financial success of those events.

Philippe Rusca assures that the ERO board has confidence in the FDI council. He then announces 3 candidates for a position in the FDI council (Gerhard Seeberger, Denis Bourgeois and Edoardo Cavallé) which have the floor for a short presentation of their candidature. The situation of having 3 very valuable candidates from ERO is positive, but also a bit difficult.

C.8 Presentation AGAZ: Are dentistry and back pain linked like coal mining and silicosis?

Prof. Jérôme Rotgans, president of the German Academy of Dental Ergonomics and Past-President of the European Society of Dental Ergonomics gives a very interesting lecture on the question if dentistry and back pain are linked as coal mining and silicosis. His answer is "no, as long as preventive measures are effective". See more on the ERO website.

Philippe Rusca thanks Prof. Rotgans for his exposé.

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C.9 Member countries

National reports and discussion

Hans Schrangl has received 24 reports, whereof he presents the most important issues. These can be found on the ERO website.

Philippe Rusca refers to an email the board and the NDA's received from the Spanish Dental Association regarding divergences that have come up between them and Henry Schein Spain. Juan Carlos Llodra Calvo explains the situation. About one year ago the Spanish Dental Foundation was promised dental consultation equipment for a social dental clinic in Madrid. A week ago and without prior announcement the conditions were changed and unacceptable proposals made. The Spanish Dental Association cannot accept being put under pressure like this and asks for ERO support.

The ERO board took notice of this situation. Very shortly after the information by the Spanish Dental Association a letter from Henry Schein arrived that gives a different view of the situation. The board has discussed the issue and is ready to help. This is not a court and we can only mediate, remarks Philippe Rusca.

After a quite emotional discussion, the delegates agree – without dissenting vote - to support the short declaration. However the meeting of representatives of the Spanish Dental Association and Henry Schein with the mediation of Philippe Rusca shall take place as scheduled.

C.10 Next meetings

Plenary session 2014 – New Delhi – Friday, 12 September - afternoon

Plenary session 2015 – Tbilisi – 24/25 April

Plenary session 2015 – Bangkok (during FDI congress)

Plenary session 2016 – Baku – 29/30 April

C.11 Miscellaneous

D Close of the meeting

Adjournment – Philippe Rusca adjourns the meeting and thanks everybody, the interpreters, the delegates and the members of his board for the constructive collaboration.

Dr. Philippe Rusca

President

Monika Lang

Minutes

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