

CED COUNTRY REPORT
FOR THE ERO PLENARY SESSION IN PARIS, 11-12 April 2014

Country: Germany

Member - Association/Chambers: Bundeszahnärztekammer/German Dental Chamber

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1. Developments in dental associations / chambers

Changes within the association and the organisation structure

A major overhaul of the Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZÄK) statutes was carried out in November 2012, changing the working relationships between the Executive Board, the Board and the Federal Assembly, as well as their respective tasks.

2013 German parliamentary elections

It was above all the Bundestag parliamentary elections on 23rd September which characterised the year 2013 for the BZÄK. The new CDU/CSU and SPD coalition government must reform the existing dual health insurance system, composed of statutory and private health insurance. Furthermore, the care sector was made a key priority.

The health insurance system

There is an urgent need to reform the German healthcare system. The dental profession believes that this vital healthcare reform should aim for a moderate yet targeted evolution of the dual healthcare system (comprising statutory and private schemes) in terms of health insurance, treatment and reimbursement. Statutory health insurance must create a healthcare system which guarantees equal treatment across all generations, whilst private health insurance must offer a social and competitive healthcare system.

2. Changes in national legislation affecting dentistry, including implementation of EU legislation

Dental treatment for people in care and for people with special needs

In autumn 2012, legislators obtained an additional service to be provided under the law on the reorientation of care (Pflege-Neuaustrichtung-Gesetz – PNG) in § 87 Paragraph 2j of the German Social Code part V (Sozialgesetzbuch V), namely the

'allowance for care visits to frail patients'.

This sets out the need for cooperation agreements to be adopted between dentists and care facilities. The German national association of statutory health insurance dentists (Kassenzahnärztlichen Bundesvereinigung – KZBV) is currently developing a suitable framework for this, together with the BZÄK. The changes are due to come into force in April 2014.

Legal regulations represent a step in the right direction, thereby laying the cornerstone for our dental policies in providing dental care for the elderly and for people with special needs.

October 2012 saw the publication of a new directive by the Robert-Koch Institute, on preparation of medical devices. This directive lays down requirements for validation of on-site cleaning, disinfecting and sterilisation, including in the field of ambulatory medical care.

3. Changes in financing for oral care

No changes.

4. Dental education and training, including undergraduate, vocational, specialist and CPD level education and training etc.

The long-awaited amendment of the Licensing Regulations for Dentists (Approbationsordnung) has unfortunately not yet been approved, due to opposition from the German Federal States. There is an urgent need to update the dental curriculum, to foster closer ties with medicine studies in the first years of university education and to reduce the sizes of groups for clinical training.

Further education and training

A modified version of the training regulations for orthodontics and oral surgery was adopted by the BZÄK Board in September 2012. The dental chambers of the German Federal States are currently in the process of bringing their dental licensing laws into line with these new specifications.

The majority of German dentists do not require any supplementary specialisations for practitioners.

5. Dental assistants and dental teams

The BZÄK wishes to continue to develop further education and training for dental auxiliary staff. This should always follow the principle of 'yes to delegation – no to substitution'. The dentist is and shall remain the primary point of contact for all oral hygiene matters.

6. Association / chambers' lobbying activities within the political aspect of the CED

The 9th Bundeszahnärztekammer European Day

The BZÄK organises an annual European Day, with the hosting locations switching between Brussels and Berlin on a yearly basis. This event raises awareness of European issues and how they interact with national policies among the dental profession and other interested parties. At the same time, the European Day format reflects our desire to recognise the growing importance of European policy in and for Germany whilst also ensuring that our interest in European developments is noted.

The next European Day will be held on the morning of the 9th April 2014 in the Tieranatomischen Theater (the veterinary anatomy theatre) at the Humbolt University in Berlin. In view of when the European Day will take place, it will focus on the upcoming European Elections. The BZÄK will organise debates with MEPs, candidates for the European Parliament and representatives of other parties present in the European Parliament or Bundestag, just a few weeks before the Elections, to discuss their positions on specific European, internal market and health policy matters. The overarching theme of freelance work will also be a focus of debate, as a topic which is particularly relevant to our profession and which is furthermore the subject of much discussion on a European level, the outcome of which cannot currently be predicted.

7. Other

FDI in New Delhi Greater Noida – 2014 – German Evening

In cooperation with the Association of German Dental Manufacturers (Verband der Deutschen Dentalindustrie – VDDI), the BZÄK cordially invites you to a German Evening as part of the FDI Congress 2014 in New Delhi Greater Noida. This event will be hosted at the congress venue on Friday evening on 12th September 2014.