

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: FRANCE
Association: French Dental Association, ADF
Venue: POTSDAM **Year:** 2013

I. Changes in the association and its organisation

- ⇒ On 5 April, the ADF will hold its triennial elections for office in the association's governing bodies.
- ⇒ At its triennial congress in May 2012, the French National Confederation of Dental Unions (CNSD – *Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires*) elected Catherine MOJAISKY as President. Roland L'HERRON was appointed chief editor of the professional journal "Le chirurgien-dentiste de France" and remains in charge of International Affairs.
- ⇒ In May 2012, France elected a new President, François HOLLANDE, bringing the French Socialist Party (left-wing) to the head of the country after fifteen years of right-wing government.

II. Trends and developments

In professional politics

Dental amalgam

The ADF is pleased with the outcome of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC5) set up by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which led to an agreement on the text of the "Minamata Convention on Mercury". The treaty emphasises the need for the prevention of oral diseases and, for environmental purposes, advocates a phase-down of the use of dental amalgam rather than a ban. France has already implemented many of the measures listed in the Convention.

VAT on Aesthetic Medicine

The French tax administration has taken the following stand: the only procedures that are not subject to VAT are those which are covered in part or in full by the French national social insurance fund. This position gave rise to great confusion within the dental profession. The Conseil d'État (the body that advises the French Government on the preparation of legislative texts and all legal matters) has further specified the abovementioned rule: all aesthetic procedures (veneers, tooth-whitening, orthodontic treatments for adults, implants ...) will be taxed. In order for these procedures not to be taxed, practitioners will have to prove that they were performed with a therapeutic aim.

In health politics

Demographics

A draft bill aimed at guaranteeing the same level of access to care across the whole of France and proposing radical measures to do so was submitted a second time and again rejected by the Assemblée nationale (the lower chamber of the French parliament). The draft bill stipulates the obligation for all third-year medical interns to do a twelve-month minimum internship in a pluridisciplinary health institute or a hospital located in an area marked by a noticeable lack of healthcare services. The draft bill also includes the obligation for all young doctors, from 2020 onwards, to set up their practice, after graduation and for a minimum of three years, in a geographical area suffering from an insufficient number of doctors to meet the population's needs in terms of access to care. These obligations apply mainly to medical doctors but could also concern dentists.

In educational politics

Vocational training

The opening of a **private Portuguese university (Fernando Pessoa)** in the South of France caused a general outcry in the world of healthcare professions. The university professes to “train” dentists, pharmacists, speech therapists and dieticians and to deliver diplomas valid across the whole of the European Union and beyond. The training programme is fee-paying (€9,500 per year for dentistry). The university does not take into account the *numerus clausus* set in France for each of the medical professions it claims to teach, it does not have the necessary accreditations to provide training or deliver diplomas abroad, and it does not give any guarantees on the quality or the content of the training. Other governments, including the Italian Government, have taken energetic measures to ban the university and to protect their students and the quality of healthcare in their countries. In reaction to the inertia of the French public authorities, the dental profession organised a demonstration in Toulon on 15 March. All private healthcare professionals were invited to protest against the drift towards commercialism of healthcare training programmes and to request the closing-down of this university before it enrolls other young people and leads them to a dead-end.

Continuing education

Continuing Professional Development (CPD, or DPC in French for *Développement professionnel continu*) is slowly being implemented. The relevant decrees have been published. Over 500 organisations have submitted an application to be accredited to deliver CPD programmes. All healthcare professionals have an annual continuing education obligation but the CPD programme is not the only way for these professionals to meet their training needs. “Voluntary training” remains important and must live on. At the end of March, all practitioners will be invited to go to the Continuing Professional Development website www.mondpc.fr to set up their personal account.

In the insurance system (public and private health insurance schemes)

Dental agreement

Amendment no.2 to the French dental agreement was signed in May 2012 by the CNSD, the French national health insurance fund and, for the first time, the union of complementary health insurance companies. The agreement establishes a raise of the basic consultation fee (€23), the revaluation of fully-covered preventive oral exams, and the implementation of a preventive oral exam for pregnant women. It also establishes a €75 fee for each half-day on stand-by duty and a specific increase of €30 on all procedures conducted during stand-by duty.

The CNSD and the French national health insurance fund have also committed to implementing before 1st January 2014 the “common classification of medical procedures”. This comprehensive catalogue of procedures lists the costs of all the dental procedures covered by the national health insurance fund and establishes a revaluation of all procedures up to a total of 56 million euro. The outcome of this work in progress will be a third amendment to the dental agreement (*Convention*).

Amendment no. 2 also provides a template quote for dental treatments, in which the place of manufacture of the dental prosthesis must be specified. The amendment also puts the dentist under the obligation to provide the patient with the manufacturer’s Declaration of Conformity.

Complementary insurance

The dental profession needs to be extremely vigilant regarding a draft bill – already accepted by the Assemblée nationale but not yet on the agenda of the Sénat (the higher chamber of the French parliament) – which introduces the possibility for mutual insurance companies (complementary insurance) to offer different levels of reimbursement depending on whether the policyholder seeks treatment from a healthcare professional, from a healthcare facility or from a healthcare centre that either belongs to a healthcare network or with which the mutual insurance companies have signed a contract stipulating specific obligations in terms of healthcare offer.

III. Further information (activities, concerns ...)

World Oral Health Day was celebrated on 20 March 2013 under the theme “Healthy teeth for a healthy life”. The event provided all oral healthcare professionals – dentists, dental assistants and dental technicians – with the opportunity to raise the awareness of patients and their families to the importance of oral health for overall health, quality of life and self-confidence. It was also an opportunity to bring to the attention of national authorities the need to implement prevention policies in order to reduce the incidence of oral diseases. These are among the most common chronic diseases: 90% of the world’s population is at risk from some form or other of dental disorder (caries, periodontal disease, oral cancer, ...).

The next ADF Annual Dental Meeting (*Congrès ADF*) will take place from 26 until 30 November 2013 around the main theme “Affirm Our Skills”. The scientific programme will include six sessions organised in strict accordance with Continuing Professional Development requirements, during which each participant will be able to confirm his or her acquired skills. The topics of these sessions

have been chosen according to the professional recommendations already published, which include sets of questions.

The 2012 edition of the ADF Annual Dental Meeting welcomed 26,000 visitors, 10% of which were foreigners.

The ADF and sustainable development

Following a vast national study conducted by the ADF at the beginning of 2012 among all private dentists in France, the French Dental Association decided to define a **strategy of social and environmental responsibility for the dental profession** and published a Charter of Commitment. The ADF has also published a practical guide to sustainable development which lists a number of simple and easy-to-follow measures for the dental practice, including how to reduce waste and recycle more, how to make the transition to green energies, and how to be a responsible manager and disseminate good practices. New tools are going to be developed such as online guides and checklists. A group of experts will also be set up to work on sustainable development in relation to hygiene and asepsis (namely to find ways of reducing the overconsumption of single-use products).

For more information, visit the ADF website at www.adf.asso.fr

ISO/TC 106 “Dentistry” 2012 Annual Dental Meeting

The 48th Annual Dental Meeting of ISO Technical Committee 106 on Dentistry was held in Paris from 30th September until 6th October 2012 and was attended by 300 international experts assembled to work on standards aimed at guaranteeing the quality and reliability of dental materials and products. In France, sub-committee 3 “Terminology”, in collaboration with the two French national police forces (the *Gendarmerie nationale* and the *Police nationale*), is currently working on finding a national consensus on dental identification. The aim is to be able to move forward on this topic during the ISO/TC106 2013 Meeting.