



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO-Plenary Session
19th/20th April, 2013, Potsdam, Germany
Dorint Hotel Sanssouci

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

Gerhard Seeberger, president of ERO welcomes all participants to the plenary session in this beautiful and so rich in history city of Potsdam.

A.2 President of BZÄK

Peter Engel, president of the German Dental Association, greets the delegates and hopes that everybody will have the opportunity to visit this unique city with the beautiful parks. He briefly presents Potsdam and then wishes a fruitful discussion and good results.

A.3 Greetings of guests

Gerhard Seeberger expresses a special welcome to our guests: Orlando Monteiro da Silva, Tin Chun Wong, Kathy Kell, Jean Luc Eiselé, Gina Ivosevic, Nermin Yamalik, Patrick Hescot, Taner Yücel, Wolfgang Doneus, Michèle Aerden and Marion Bader

The FDI president considers it a special pleasure to be here. Orlando Monteiro da Silva thanks for the invitation and good organisation of this event. He wishes for a fruitful meeting here and he already looks forward to a very successful congress in Istanbul. He congratulates the outgoing ERO president on his wonderful mandate.

B Presentation of German Dental Association

Michael Frank – presents the host country Germany and its health and social insurance system in a most charming way (see presentation on the website).

C Standard agenda of the business meeting

C.1 Roll call

1.1 Establishment of the quorum

Anna Lella does the roll call. 55 out of 70 delegates are present; the quorum is achieved.

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Treasurer: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Councillor: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey)

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C.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of Hong Kong

The minutes are approved unanimously.

C.4 Reports of the Board

4.1 President

Gerhard Seeberger looks back on his 3 years of mandate and is happy to see that quite a lot of things could be accomplished. An amendment of the constitution has been treated and adopted in just one plenary session. Afterwards ERO was registered as an NGO in Geneva. The economic crisis did not spare the dental profession and attempts to exclude dentistry from medicine never cease. This is where the WG LDPE was called into action and did some great work. ERO has become more political. In Germany in the last 30 years, but also all over Europe, we became aware that prevention is the key for an affordable dentistry and a better oral health of our patients. The WG prevention has worked very well and prepared a surprise for the delegates, which will be presented later. Of course all other WG have been cooperating excellently, too. Our profession is changing constantly; we have much more women dentists all over Europe. Women do excellent work and so he thanks Anna Lella and Monika Lang for their support. He points to the statement regarding the dental technicians which has been elaborated by Anna Lella in a very short time and was adopted in the last plenary session.

His thanks go as well to the delegates. Even though it was not always easy, the collaboration was very good and he is proud to say that ERO has not adapted to crisis but has tried to counteract as much as possible. Gerhard Seeberger is confident that this work to reach an even better ERO and a better oral health of our patients in the ERO region will be continued.

4.2 President-elect

Philippe Rusca thanks the president for his efforts and support. He emphasizes that the work of the board is a work of a team. His report has been integrated in the "Communicator". He will not fundamentally change things in the upcoming mandate, but he intends to reduce the number of questionnaires and intensify the cooperation between working groups and their chairpersons. He might as well seek the support of specialists for some tasks. He finally refers to the new website, which is a working instrument and should be used as this.

4.3 Secretary general

Anna Lella points to the "Communicator" where her report is printed as well. She has not more to add; only to thank the secretariat and the working groups which she has been taking care of for the excellent collaboration.



4.4 Members of the Board

The work in the board is quite complex, remarks Michael Frank. It has been a great pleasure to work with his colleagues even though not everybody always was of the same opinion. About the finances he will report later.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk: It was a pleasure and an honour to serve two terms. In these 6 years he gained a good insight of the work of ERO and its role for the profession. It is very important to strengthen and defend our profession. There is a lot left to be done and it is not an easy task because dentistry in Europe is not homogenous. ERO must respect the differences. He thanks his colleagues and the delegates for their support and confidence.

All reports are adopted unanimously. Gerhard Seeberger expresses his gratitude for the excellent work and reminds to take advantage of the tool we have, which is the new website with the forum in order to improve our communication.

C.5 Member countries

5.1 National reports

Anna Lella informs that 18 national reports have been sent to the secretariat until April 16th. She thanks all those who have taken the trouble in writing and transmitting such a report. All of them are uploaded on the ERO website. She points out the most significant comments (see her presentation on the website).

There are no comments on the national reports.

C.6 Finances

9.1 Settlement of accounts 2012

Michael Frank is happy to present a very healthy financial situation. He briefly explains the details of the accounts which were presented on the website. 2012 accounts close with a benefit of 24'066.81 €. This is very satisfactory; taking into account that we granted a reduction of 10% on the membership fees exceeding 250 €.

9.2 Outstanding fees

The Polish Stomatological Association and the Kazakhstan Dental Association have not yet paid their dues. Since Kazakhstan has not paid for two subsequent years, it will be no longer a full member of ERO, but will have an observer status (according to the constitution).

9.3 Budget 2013

Michael Frank thanks the secretariat for the accurate accounting. Jörg Krainhöfner compliments the board for being able to present such a nice benefit in spite of having reduced the membership fees. He is being told that the board takes lump sums for the reimbursement of expenditures. This explains the even amount in this account.

Michèle Aerden remarks that Kazakhstan has now an “umbrella-“association. So the contact can be made and asked to make up with the membership fee payments.



The accounts 2012, duly revised by Enrico Lai and the budget 2013 are adopted unanimously by the delegates.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach proposes a vote of discharge of the board, which is accepted unanimously.

C.7 Working groups

7.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach honours the work which has been done in establishing the document „FDI Vision 2020“. He underlines that the aim of the WG statement is not to discredit anybody involved in this. There were a lot of intensive discussions in Hong Kong and thereafter. Even after the resolution FDI has adopted in Hong Kong many statements in this paper do not apply for many of the country in the ERO zone. Reading “FDI Vision 2020” could lead to the conclusion that a lot of aspects regarding education and exercise of the profession have taken a completely wrong direction. This is why the WG wants to emphasize that this text cannot be a course of action, but should only be taken as an advice what ways could be further explored and discussed.

The WG has highlighted the points in this paper which do not apply at all to ERO member countries and which do not require implementation. Just imagine this document in the hands of governmental departments or insurance companies! This must lead them to the conclusion that dental care could be easier available and at lower expenses. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach refers to the discussion paper and the “Vision 2020 Synopsis” (see on the website). The WG is of the opinion that the price level for medical care is defined by the economic output of each country. The national conditions of each country and not the global conditions are the decisive factors. It makes no sense to draw up a new definition of tasks and consequently a diversification of the professional profile. In the ERO member countries the dentist’s professional profile consists of the full range of treatment in dental care. There is no need for further extension. The current educational and care models in the ERO member countries have proved successful and resulted in a significant improvement of oral health. They are updated continually by the current state of scientific knowledge. Therefore, a redevelopment and a redefinition of the dental educational and care structures do not seem to be advisable.

The working group sees a threatening danger in the statement that traditional dental educational models are reputed not being able to appropriately solve problems of disparities in dental care. The current traditional educational models of the ERO countries have proved to be successful and together with social security systems have successfully managed disparities in dental care. It is for sure that also public health structures within the context of prevention measures have resulted in improvement of oral health especially with children and adolescents in many ERO countries.

This document is a roadmap which can be used to improve oral health in less developed countries of the world. Looking closely at it, one could conclude that our traditional structures did not contribute to improve oral health in Europe. Here we clearly disagree. We do not want to rewrite „FDI Vision 2020“, but we want to point out that many passages in this paper do not apply to most of the ERO members countries. This is why the WG decided



to present a statement which should be voted on and the added to the “FDI Vision 2020”. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach reads the draft statement (see ERO website).

Juan-Carlos Llodra thinks that oral health care is not homogenously spread over Europe; there are differences in oral health care and in the education programs and there is still a lot to be learned about prevention as well.

Most of the following speakers agree with the arguments of Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach and his WG members. The “FDI vision 2020” has many good approaches, but it could turn out to be dangerous in the hands of politicians. It seems the best solution to create an addendum which clearly states that not all what is said in this paper applies to all ERO member countries. The delegates unanimously vote for this solution.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach is grateful for this lively discussion and hopes that the delegates and the NDA will give their opinion about the draft statement well ahead of the next plenary session in Istanbul in order that we will be able to vote on it.

7.2 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Nermin Yamalik reports about the proceedings of her working group (see presentation on the ERO website). Analysis of the extent and efficacy of the partnership and collaboration between the dental faculties and the National Dental Associations (NDAs) within the FDI-ERO zone was the task, which will shortly be finished. The 2nd part of the article will soon be published in IDJ. She has posted a question on the forum on the website and with this the discussion could start. This discussion shall last 6 weeks and then a report will be drafted and presented in Istanbul. There will be as well a final statement to vote on.

Evidence based dentistry might be the next topic of this working group, declares Nermin Yamalik. She thanks all the members of the group for their support.

Monika Lang gives some explanations about the new website. The working groups can now put their documents on the site to be seen either by the public or only by the WG members. The secretariat is acting as webmaster. If there are questions do not hesitate to contact Monika Lang.

7.3 Integration

Elena Ivanova refers to the WG meeting in Moscow. She thanks Gerhard Seeberger for his support and the FDI president for his presence at this meeting (see presentation on the website). She emphasizes that the main goal of the WG is integration between Eastern, Central and Western European countries. Prevention, education, control of quality are only a choice of topics we are interested in. The main principle of our integration work is to take the best of the experiences and apply them in ERO countries for integration. A resolution has been worked out during this meeting. In order to facilitate the goal of optimal oral health for all people, the ERO WG Integration recommend to the ministers of health to work in close relationship with the national dental associations. NDAs should become involved in all political and legislative procedures and decisions regarding matters of oral health and oral health care. NDAs should offer advice and support in relation to the planning of oral health and related measures. The partnership, Ministry of Health and National Dental Association will be beneficial for the patients and the nation to reach optimal oral health.

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The 2nd issue of the discussion in Moscow was to establish a national committee in each country. The 3rd issue was the national programme of dental disease prevention. This is a basis of national dental association's work. The WG prepared a questionnaire on prevention. If we decide to start the prevention topic we need to contact all countries and clarify their prevention status, declares Elena Ivanova. She points out that they organise those meetings by themselves and not with ERO money. The next meeting will be in May in Almaty.

Simona Dianiskova requests to vote on this statement, which is then done and gets unanimous acceptance.

7.4 Prevention

Gerhard Seeberger provides the introduction in this topic and presents the „personal health improvement card“. There already existed another health improvement card which although never mentioned oral diseases. This is why we considered adapting it. It is intended to be a communication tool. He refers then to the survey made with the cardiologist's and diabetologist's associations. This collaboration was very much appreciated on both parts. The feedback on the questionnaire was not overwhelming, but still satisfactory.

Denis Bourgeois reviews the recent work of his group (see presentation on the website). Dental medicine is not only about cariology and parodontology, moreover we have to get an overall view on our patient's health. Therefore also the basic education should be adapted or redirected. In the last survey we tried to find out how cardiologists and diabetologists perceive oral health. The number of answers was a bit sparse but still significant. There is and was the intention to collaborate. This should be continued, because it is important to show the colleagues in the medical field our (the dentist's) capacities.

7.5 Quality in Dentistry

The working group consisting of 8 members from 5 countries has started its work in 2010. A questionnaire has been elaborated and Roland L'Herron explains the results. But there seems to be only little interest in these questions. Only 13 out of 28 countries gave some feedback. He shows the questions and the answers. The questionnaire treated questions regarding the education (without a sound education – no quality); the postgraduate and continuing education, the liberal practice and quality characteristics. The small amount of answers revealed big differences between the countries.

Is it that there are just too many questionnaires around or do we have a fundamental problem with this topic, asks Roland L'Herron. Are these questions that no one is interested in? Before continuing with the WG, things must thoroughly be considered and evaluated. He thanks the members of his group for their support. It was not their fault that the work is just not going ahead.

Philippe Rusca confirms that before the WG Quality gets a new mandate, the board must well think about where a new task should be leading to.

Peter Engel is quite angry about these unbearable controls and prescriptions made by the government regarding continuing education, amalgam separators and quality assurance.



These are tasks which must be treated by the profession. Equally unbearable is the fact that „outsiders“ which do not understand anything about our profession try to interfere.

Michael Frank agrees that a 50% feedback is not very motivating. But we should think about where we want to go. Of course the requirements and standards are very different in each country.

7.6 Basic + continuing education

Alex Mersel gives a short report on the history of this WG.

The ERO is a family and like in most families there are a lot of opinions and a lot of emotions. He thanks Gerhard Seeberger and Bedros Yavru-Sakuk for managing this family and he thanks his members of the WG, Nermin Yamalik and the secretariat for their collaboration.

This WG has elaborated a questionnaire as well; 38 have been sent out, 26 came back. He presents the results (see presentation on the ERO website). Unfortunately he did not succeed in introducing the e-learning system. He joins Roland L'Herron in deploring the continuous decrease in the feedback on questionnaires. Alex Mersel then shows some of the answers to questions regarding the motivation of attending lectures and the satisfaction with the lecturers.

7.7 Women in Dentistry

Vesna Barac-Furtinger refers to the “acta stomatologica croatica”, where an article has been published. It replaces her usual report. She thanks for the collaboration of the WG members. The article seems to have been a success. It is the first one that speaks about women in dentistry. The problem is the same in all WG with the feedback on the questionnaires. Not having received as many answers as expected, it was quite difficult to collect the necessary data and publish the article. The call to send more women to all different kind of events and committees seems to have had some success. The presence of women is growing constantly; there is progress in postgraduate education as well. More and more women are now in leading positions. This might as well be due to the efforts of our working group, remarks Vesna Barac-Furtinger. She thinks that the work must be continued. She invites the NDAs to appoint more women to this group. A new program will be presented in Istanbul.

Vesna Barac-Furtinger thanks the outgoing members of the board (Gerhard Seeberger and Bedros Yavru-Sakuk) for their cooperation and support.

7.8 Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé thanks for the support he received in Hong Kong. He presents the statement on the profile of the dental preventive assistant (see website). This should be voted on.

The WG agrees on the fact that the DPA must have a basic common agreed level and therefore, it will work on a qualified training profile for DPA. It was also very clear that the WG is absolutely against any kind of compulsory standardisation. The concept is just an exhortation that has actually to be developed. The DPA profile has no relationship with the nurse's profile according former EU Directives. We ask to underline that DPA can't practice without the presence of Dentist and always and in any case with Dentist's prescription/s.



Georgios Tsiogas is not happy with this statement and the discussions about the DPA and suggests not adopting it. His position paper is on the website.

Susanne Andersen on the other hand would like to have a DPA in her country. She does not see the same problems as the Greek. She is supported by Vlademir Margvelashvili who thinks such a statement would be very useful.

Edoardo Cavallé underlines that it is not the wish of the working group to impose this model/profile of an assistant on any NDA. All countries have to decide themselves.

Finally the statement is adopted with 2 dissenting votes and 2 abstentions.

The working group would like to continue now with the profile of the dental hygienist. The new board will discuss in its first meeting about the new tasks for the WG, declares Philippe Rusca.

7.9 Approval of the reports of the working groups

All reports are approved.

C.8 Presentation of the candidates for the ERO Election

Now the candidates for a position in the ERO board have the floor and present themselves. Anna Lella (Poland) is running for the position of president-elect; Hans Schrangl (Austria), presented by Wolfgang Doneus, is candidate for secretary general; Michael Frank (Germany) for treasurer and Taner Yücel (Turkey) is candidate as a board member.

C.9 ERO Elections

Sabina Aliyeva (Azerbaijan), Alexander Weber (Switzerland) and Klaas-Jan Bakker (Netherlands) form the electoral committee.

Since there are 4 positions and 4 candidates and in order to quicken the procedure Wolfgang Sprekels suggests to elect the candidates in one single ballot. This proposal is accepted unanimously.

The ballot papers are distributed and the collected. The result is as follows:

Votes for Anna Lella: 46 yes, 3 no, 4 invalid

Votes for Hans Schrangl: 46 yes, 3 no, 4 invalid

Votes for Michael Frank: 46 yes, 3 no, 3 invalid

Votes for Taner Yücel: 52 yes, 1 no, 2 invalid

All candidates accept their nomination.



C.10 Next meetings

10.1 Plenary session 2013, Istanbul

It will take place in the congress center in Istanbul on Wednesday, 28 August, 2013.

10.2 Plenary session 2014, Paris

Joël Trouillet, Catherine Mojaïski, Roland L'Herron and Patrick Hescot present Paris as the venue for the 2014 plenary session (April 11/12).

10.3 Plenary session 2015

There are two candidates for 2015: Georgia – presented by Vladimer Margvelashvili – and Azerbaijan – presented by Sabina Aliyeva. They are requested to submit their candidature by written.

More candidates for future plenary sessions are very welcome to present themselves by announcing their candidature to the ERO secretariat.

C.11 FDI

Gerhard Seeberger reports on the work of FDI's WOHD Task Team. He explains briefly the reasons for changing the date of the world oral health day, which in the past has been too close to the annual congress. He shows some pictures of how this year's WOHD has been celebrated (see presentation on the ERO website).

C.12 Miscellaneous

Georgios Tsiogas comments on the work of the working groups and refers to the respective rules of procedure. (See his comment on the website.)

Gerhard Seeberger assures him that his remarks will be reconsidered in the new board.

D Close of the meeting

The newly elected president adjourns the meeting at 13.40 h. Philippe Rusca thanks Gerhard Seeberger and Bedros Yavru-Sakuk for their very estimated support over the last years, the German Dental Association for the organisation of this event, their collaborators, the technicians and the translator, which did not have an easy job to do for their precious work. Finally he thanks the new members of the board and last but not least the delegates for their excellent collaboration.

Dr. Philippe Rusca
President

Monika Lang
Minutes

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