

# Regional European Organisation of the FDI

## National Report

**Country:** FRANCE

**Association:** French Dental Association, ADF

**Venue:** PRAGUE

**Year:** 2012

### I. Changes in the association and its organisation

- ⇒ New elections took place within the ADF in January. Patrick HESCOT, after 17 years at the head of the ADF, decided to leave his seat to a new Secretary General. He remains in charge of the French international affairs commission. Joël TROUILLET keeps his seat within this two-headed organisation.
- ⇒ New elections will take place within CNSD in May, one week after the CED session in Copenhagen. A new president and a new team will be elected.
- ⇒ France will elect a new President next May.

### II. Trends and developments

#### In professional politics

**Prosthesis:** The French Competition Authority has dismissed the National Union of prostheses manufacturer who wanted to build a direct sale of prostheses to patients. For them, “selling” prostheses by dentists constituted an impediment to competition, since patients should have the opportunity to choose their technician and pay him directly. The Authority considers indeed “impossible to challenge the monopoly of practice of dentistry”, written in the Code of Public Health.

**Tooth whitening:** A French company “Points Sourire”, joined by the newly created French Federation of Dental Whitening, filed a complaint with the Competition Authority, against CNSD and the General Dental Council, for anti competitive practice in the field of tooth whitening and lightning on the French territory. The complaint initially filed against the ADF was finally withdrawn.

The CNSD was heard by the Competition Authority on March 14. In the defence memo to be filed in the coming days, the CNSD will remind that tooth whitening is a medical procedure listed on the General Nomenclature of Medical Acts and will also remind the CED action at the European Commission and the adoption of the recent directive.

## **In health politics**

**Reform of the professional liability insurance** for all liberal health professionals including dentists: a new tax has been implemented to pool insurance risks for all liberal health professionals. This new contribution from 15 to 25€ (20 € for dentists) will serve to create a special fund to support the major claims/accidents exceeding 8 millions € (3 millions € in the past).

## **In educational politics**

⇒ The CPD is being slowly implemented. The relating decrees have been published.

⇒ Since April 2011, orthodontics is no more the only specialty recognized in France. Are now recognized specialties, accessible via a qualifying internship which can be accessed either by dentists or physicians, leading to a diploma of specialized studies:

- Orthodontics (6 semesters)
- Oral surgery (common to medicine and dentistry) (8 semesters)
- Oral medicine (6 semesters)

## **In the insurance system (incl. public health insurance and private insurance schemes)**

A new convention is currently being discussed with the Unions (CNSD + one smaller), the compulsory health insurance (Sécurité sociale) and for the first time, the supplementary health insurance. This latter participant will be very important since the state insurance is withdrawing more and more from the dental sector. The wish of the Government is to have it adopted and signed before the presidential elections, e.g. before May.

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

⇒ Next ADF Congress will take place from 27 November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2012 on the theme: "Garder le Sourire", „Keep that Smile”.

⇒ Launched in January with Liberal dentists, the ADF major study on sustainable development will enable the profession to take the first steps of its approach to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The ADF has decided to identify all initiatives undertaken by dentists and how far they are willing to commit, before formalizing any process.

⇒ The representatives of the profession, under the guidance of the Commission on Medical Devices of the ADF have built a technical evaluation grid for the prevention of infections related to healthcare. Among the 79 listed items, 19 are presented as key recommendations which compliance is essential to the safety of care.