



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA ODONTOIATRI

Italian Dental Association

Presidente Nazionale

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NATIONAL REPORT 2012

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Association: Italian Dental Association, AIO

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I. Changes in the association and its organization.

Despite the significant economic recession in Italy AIO has been able to grow its members. This did not have a positive impact on income due to fees as many new members are young dentists who pay a sixth part of the regular dues. AIO registers 7.583 members by the end of March 2012. AIO is still the only representative dental association of dentists practicing dentistry exclusively.

II. Trends and developments:

- in professional politics

AIO has organized a political congress on national level focusing on "Ethics in Dentistry". In a final resolution the Association takes a firm position against partnerships with non-dentists and against the majority of commercial third parties in dental practices. The Association claims for the majority of the dental profession in any kind of societies with business partners in order to guarantee liberal dental practice. AIO has published the "Value Chart of Dentistry" on this behalf, stating that oral health is a value to preserve and not a mere cost-factor.

During the elections of the National Dental Council President Giuseppe Renzo has been reconfirmed and AIO Councilor Sandro Sanvenero has been elected as Councilor. AIO has been the only dental association proposing a roadmap of collaboration with the National Dental Council.

- in health politics

Italy, overflowed by low-cost dental providers, registers still a growing number of illegal dental treatment. The presence of an advertising company for any kind of business, Groupon, has raised many disciplinary questions dentists have run into not respecting the code of ethics. Groupon is contrasted also by the President of the Italian Council of Physicians and Dentists, Amedeo Bianco. AIO, in collaboration with the local dental chambers has started a series of forums for dental professionals in which the negative economical, ethical and organizational aspects worsening quality of treatment and patient safety have been explained and highlighted. Some low-cost offices have already gone bankrupt and dental tourism reimports overtreatment and general health problems.

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- **in educational politics**

Italy counts 34 universities offering undergraduate dental education. The first time in 2011 not all trained dentists registered in the Dental Chamber. Italy has twice as much dentists than its need for dental professionals considering WHO recommendations and the majority of the young dentists are or unemployed or not remunerated for their work. A foreign private university has been rejected in a joint action of Ministry of Instruction University and Research (MIUR), AIO, ANDI, National Dental Council, and the National Academic Board. The Minister of MIUR signed a decree which blocked any activity from this university as it has not fulfilled the prerequisites for adequate undergraduate training.

- **in the insurance system (incl. the public health insurance and private insurance schemes).**

No changes.

III. Further information (activities, concerns).

AIO is one out of two national providers appointed by the Italian Ministry of Health for dentistry and medicine. This special recognition is due to AIO's efforts in continuing education in the last decade. In this status AIO has provided from April to December 2011 more than 200 events for more than 3000 participants, providing almost 55000 CE credits. From February to April 2012 AIO has organized a prevention program "Smile at any Age" for patients with removable dentures from age "over 55" focusing on early cancer detection and functionality in more than 800 dental practices and offering oral health lessons for elderly, mainly in senior-citizens homes in more than 20 cities.

AIO Immediate Past-president Gerhard Konrad Seeberger has been elected to FDI Council at the General Assembly of the World Dental Parliament in Mexico City in 2011.

AIO Treasurer Enrico Lai has been elected ERO Auditor during the Spring Plenary session in Sofia in 2011

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