

Regional European Organisation of the FDI

National Report

Country: FRANCE

Association: Association dentaire française, ADF

Venue: SALZBURG **Year:** 2018

I. Changes in the association and its organisation

No changes.

II. Trends and developments

In professional politics

The change of national government in May 2017 brought with it the hope of a renewed dialogue with the new Minister of Health Agnès Buzyn. As soon as she was appointed, she underlined her attachment to consultation, insisting on its importance to get out of the arbitration procedure (imposed, non-negotiated national agreement) and to build a model of dental care oriented towards prevention and early treatment, that enhances "good medical practice". Mme Buzyn has set a number of goals for the negotiations:

- Capped rates on procedures with freely-set fees in order to improve access to health care,
- Zero out-of-pocket payments for all patients by 2022, as promised by French President Macron,
- Settlement by arbitration maintained but application of the deleterious provisions on rates postponed until 1st January 2019.

The new negotiations, which opened in September 2017, will either:

- succeed and lead to a new national agreement
- or fail and lead to the application of the provisions on rates stipulated in the current settlement by arbitration.

At the time of writing this report, the rates proposed by the National Insurance Fund are deemed insufficient by the dental unions, including the CNSD.

In health politics

French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe and Health Minister Agnès Buzyn announced on 13th February the launch of yet another reform of the health system. Centred on the patient, the project encompasses five topics: quality and relevance of care, funding and remuneration, eHealth, human resources, and territorial organisation. Once again, the reform will be conducted hastily, with a consultation period reduced to three months.

In educational politics

INITIAL TRAINING

Partial access

As was feared by the health professions, despite their numerous attempts – supported by the French Senate – to convince the authorities to do otherwise, **the bill ratifying the order that transposes into French law the possibility of partial access to health professions** detailed in EU directive 2013/55/EU was published in the French Official Journal on 27 February. The government's obstinacy to go beyond the requirements of the directive will further weaken our health system and has been

denounced vigorously by all health professions, including the dental profession. Partial access will be a major factor of inequality. It will establish a two-tier system and open the way to a professional deskilling detrimental to the quality and safety of health care. The battle against this reckless measure is ongoing and an appeal has been filed with the French Council of State. Among other things, the bill creates the profession of medical physicist.

Compulsory health service for 47 000 health care students from beginning of school year 2018-2019. A first in Europe

The three-month long compulsory health service for health care students promised by new French President Macron during his electoral campaign is taking shape. The French Ministers of Health and of Higher Education detailed the service in February, describing it as a "first in Europe".

Starting from the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, 47 000 students each year (students in medicine, pharmacy, midwifery, physiotherapy, nursing, and 1 386 dental students) will have to complete the three-month service, compulsory to obtain their diploma. The health service will be extended to other health care students – speech therapists, occupational therapists, psychomotricity specialists, hearing aid specialists, dietitians, specialists in electro-radiology – in 2019.

In practice, the students will conduct prevention missions in schools, companies, nursing homes and other "communities", mostly in the shape of collective actions. The Minister of Health, while she has explained that these students will become "health ambassadors", has also underlined that the health service is not intended to replace those parties already involved in prevention work nor to mitigate the difficulties encountered in health professional shortage areas (so-called "medical deserts" in France).

CLESI-PESSOA, the Private Portuguese university

It has been brought to our notice that dental graduates from two Portuguese schools, who apparently started their studies at the CLESI university, have registered with the French Dental Council. Our request to the French ministers that they intervene with the Portuguese government and the European Commission has not yet succeeded. The difficulty here is to prove the non-conformity of these students' training despite the fact that the students involved have received a diploma certifying conformity.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The French professional council (*Conseil national professionnel*), a new body that brings together the various stakeholders of the profession and is in charge of the continuing education of dentists, is currently awaiting the publication of a new ministerial order setting new rules for dental continuing education.

The ADF for its part is involved in continuing education all year round, namely through its Annual Dental Meeting (there are 100 scientific sessions scheduled in the Conference of the 2018 *Congrès de l'ADF*), its monthly live online chats *Les Rendez-vous de l'ADF*, and its online continuing professional development programmes *DPC en ligne*.

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

See item II – Professional politics

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

The ADF 2018 Annual Dental Meeting will be held from Tuesday 27 November until Saturday 1st December 2018 at the Palais des Congrès de Paris. This year, the chosen topic for the scientific programme is "Dental care, the commitment that unites us" ("*Soigner, l'engagement qui nous unit*"). In 2017, over 6 000 delegates attended the conference and 27 000 visitors, the exhibition.

The ADF is involved all year round in standardisation, dental research and international dental affairs (ERO-FDI).