



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO-Plenary Session
14th/15th April, 2011, Sofia, Bulgaria
Kempinski Hotel Zografski

Minutes

Gerhard Seeberger opens the plenary session by giving the word to the Prime Minister of Bulgaria.

A Welcome

The prime minister of Bulgaria, Mr. Boiko Boriesov, welcomes the delegates from all over Europe in Sofia. He wishes them a successful meeting and hopes there will be enough time after the meeting to visit the beautiful country of Bulgaria, especially beautiful monastery of Rial with more than 700 years of history, a unique place in Bulgaria. He thanks all the delegates for being here in Bulgaria and wishes this conference successful and productive work. He closes his short speech with the words: may you enjoy your stay in Bulgaria!

A.1 ERO-President

Gerhard Seeberger welcomes the guests: the prime minister, Mr. Boiko Boriesov; the minister of health, Dr. Michael Zortev; the president of FDI, Dr. Roberto Vianna; the treasurer of FDI, Dr. TC Wong; the speaker of FDI, Dr. Greg Chadwick; the president of the Malaysian Dental Association, Dr. How Kim Chuan; the president of the Bulgarian Dental Association, Prof. Nikolai Sharkov; the president of the local organising committee, Dr. Donka Stancheva; the president of the BgDA branch Sofia, Dr. Borislav Milanov; the General secretary of the BgDA branch Sofia, Dr. Oleg Gladkov and all the delegates.

Warm welcome and thanks in advance go to the interpreters and all helping hands in the backstage.

Gerhard Seeberger: "When Nick Sharkov first announced the candidature of Bulgaria in Rome we were all excited. What we all know is that Bulgaria and its capital Sofia stand for long history and tradition, what we might not be aware of is that the BGDA is one of the oldest Dental Associations in Europe. Last December the association remembered their foundation in 1905 and their founders. The principles of the BgDA fixed in the initial statues are still valid today and they have been defended also in difficult times. They have been the fundamental criteria for a modern Europe oriented dentistry. Compliments can be addressed to the Bulgarian dentists and their leaders, as they stand for defending the liberty of the profession. The prime minister very well knows that defended values gain in value; these are: health, science, ethics and the liberty to be able to benefit from them. ERO meets in these two days in Bulgaria's capital to promote and ameliorate the dental profession, in order to help our statesman to offer adequate health through dental prevention and therapy, thanks to the expertise of dental profession to all Bulgarians as well as to all citizens of ERO countries."

He wishes success in work and the endeavours at home and hopes that there will be time as well to enjoy Sofia.

The deputy minister, Dr. Michael Zortev, addresses his greetings to the participants in the plenary session of ERO. He is happy to welcome them in Bulgaria and hopes that they will be able to follow their plans and discuss extremely important topics as oral diseases, prevention, qualifications and the collaboration between the dental care practitioners and universities. He expresses his hopes that they will find the answers to open questions, thus enabling all of us to improve the dental care quality and the availability of dental care and access to it for the entire population. With that he wishes success to the conference.



A.2 President of BDA

The president of the Bulgarian Dental Association, Nikolai Sharkov, addresses a warm welcome to his fellow delegates. He is happy to have the plenary session of ERO in the capital of his country and wishes fruitful discussions.

A.3 Greetings of guests

Roberto Vianna, president of FDI, has the floor. He greets everybody and is very happy to attend this plenary session. Special thanks go to Dr. Nikolai Sharkov for the reception and the BgDA for having here these important persons (prime minister and deputy minister). He is pleased that there is such a big audience, which shows the interest of the participants in dentistry in Europe. He thanks for the long-standing good collaboration with FDI and ascertains all assistance possible from FDI headquarters.

B Presentation of Bulgarian Dental Association

The Bulgarian Dental Association is one of the oldest dental associations. Nikolai Sharkov presents “his” association as it is today, its history and the Bulgarian health system (see presentation as addendum to these minutes www.erodental.org).

C Standard agenda of the business meeting

C.1 Roll call

Anna Lella does the roll call. The up-dated list will be on the ERO website. Apologies came from the British Dental Association, the Romanian Dental Association of Private Practitioners (RDAPP), the Slovakian Dental Association, the Dental Association of Luxemburg and the Croatian Dental Society.

1.1 Establishment of the quorum

Anna Lella announces that 51 out of 74 delegates are present, so the quorum is established.

1.2 ERO members ---

C.2 Approval of the agenda

Gerhard Seeberger informs about two changes: Since Dr. Vianna will be here only on the first day of the session; point C.9 will be anticipated and put in the position of C. 6; whereas C. 6 will go to the position of C.9. Anna Lella remarks that point C7.7 is deleted, since Vesna Barac-Furtinger unfortunately cannot participate because of important meetings in her home country. She transmits her apologies. The agenda is approved with these changes.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of Salvador

Jörg Krainhöfner refers to the discussion about the constitution and art. 15 regarding “languages”, which says that all important documents have to be translated into English, French and German. He misses the German translations of the minutes of Yerevan and Salvador. Monika Lang answers that the German translation of the Yerevan minutes have recently been put on the website and the one of the Salvador meeting will follow. The French translation of the minutes of Salvador is on the website as well. There exists no French translation of the minutes of Yerevan, but it can of course be arranged if desired.

Patrick Hescot supports Jörg Krainhöfner’s request. It is a task of the secretariat to provide these translations. Philippe Rusca reminds that with overtaking the secretariat – Patrick Hescot was member of the board at this time – it was decided to make some economies, but of course we will catch up with it as soon as possible. This goes as well for the translation of the constitution, which for the time being exists only in English and French.

There are no further requests to speak. Thus the minutes of the plenary session of Salvador are approved.



C.4 Reports of the Board

4.1 President

Gerhard Seeberger is proud to chair this regional organisation. "I have a board composed of members who distinguish themselves through their outstanding expertise in dental politics and their professional capacities and I can count on working group chairmen whose organisational talent and constant work have produced important results for ERO and for FDI." He thanks his colleagues for their precious contribution and for the enthusiasm which they spread among all of us. He is happy that ERO is now registered in the state of Geneva Switzerland, as many other important medical and dental organisations, and thanks all that have contributed to reach this goal. ERO is now the first regional organisation of FDI which have the statutes of a non-governmental organisation. This opens new perspectives for ERO and he invites everybody to take advantage of it. "Your engagement will decide whether the profession risks becoming commerce, losing the importance of the medical act and together with it the possibility to offer quality in therapy and patient's safety on the liberal conditions. It is us to decide today, if tomorrow a dental chair side assistant will be awarded an academic title of doctor, as it is already the case for dental hygienists (in Italy). It is up to us to maintain ethical values in our profession and in order to reach this we are here today and this is why working groups are meeting and this is why we are continuing the work that has been started by presidents before, in mandates before."

4.2 President-elect

As already mentioned by the president, the ERO board is working as a team, announces Philippe Rusca. There have been some technical problems regarding the communication, but the information flow should improve in the future. He has been particularly involved in the registration process of ERO, which has been completed on December 16, 2010. "We are now registered as a non-profit organisation, which means that ERO is exempted from tax. On the other hand we have to transmit an abstract of the minutes of the plenary sessions as well as accounts and budgets, as this is the case for all other organisations too. As a non-profit organisation registered in Geneva at times we receive invitations to conferences which are not necessarily related to the health domain." Philippe Rusca further informs, that a contract for a general liability insurance has been signed. The registration in Geneva now makes it possible to separate completely from the Swiss Dental Association. "In this plenary session we will elect a treasurer and then we will be able to open our own bank account, which means that we will be completely independent." He finally underlines that there are many projects under way and that the board is working hard to defend our profession in Europe.

4.3 Secretary general

Anna Lella expresses her gratitude to the organising team; it was a pleasure preparing this meeting. She refers to a letter she wrote in February regarding the elections of a treasurer and an auditor, which have to be appointed according to our new constitution. She points out that each member of the board is as well a supervisor of two working groups. "In this way we are engaged in the progress of the topics. After this plenary session and the previous WG meetings the list of the WG members will be updated." She understands the problem about translation and thinks that we will find the solution to do it on time. In our secretariat we have only one person. She thanks Monika Lang which she thinks is doing her duty excellently. Her thanks go as well to Edoardo Cavallé which provided us our Italian webmaster. Anna Lella finally announces some changes on the website: the (discussion) forum is in preparation and the group of Nermin Yamalik is actually testing it. More about this will follow in the report of the WG 'Relations between practitioners and universities'.

4.4 Members of the Board

Michael Frank thanks for the invitation to Sofia and for the excellent organisation. He praises the good communication within the board. Even though the starting points for many discussions may sometimes be different, we always find a way to solve upcoming problems. He considers it a task of the board to listen to problems of the NDAs and to try to help. He refers to the two WG he is in charge of, starting by



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the WG 'Dental Team'. This is a very important group because they are treating topics that are being discussed throughout Europe. He thanks Edoardo Cavallé for his activity. The paper which is treating the tasks and educational requirements for the dental chair side assistant will be discussed later. Michael Frank hopes that despite the very different starting points in Europe we will be able to agree on certain basics. The question whether there will be independent activities of the members of the dental team will of course be our biggest concern. It will be our task to avoid that non-academic professions in the dental field are becoming independent "healthcare-workers".

WG 'Quality' – "It has been quite difficult to find people wanting to work in the group. We started with a very small number of colleagues, but in the meantime it has grown. Roland L'Herron, chairman of the WG, will present the work of the group." Michael Frank thanks him and his group members, who agreed to treat the delicate topic 'quality'.

Since the president of the CED is present as well, he takes the opportunity to stress on the importance of a good cooperation between the two associations. Even though ERO has a lot of members that do not belong to the EU it must be our goal to discuss and solve problems together. Especially because most topics are of common interest and there are people that work in CED and in ERO on the same commissions and projects. Michael Frank thanks the CED president for his willingness to cooperate on a certain level.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk: "Since the election in Yerevan we are trying to organise and coordinate our activities; first within the board and also with all our working groups. We are trying to deal with everybody democratically. We should never forget that politics should be at the service of our profession and our profession should not be at the service of the politics, in order to be able to safeguard the liberal and self-governing aspect of our profession. As ERO we should also coordinate our activities with our other sister organisations like the CED. Duplications or contradictions should be avoided. A close communication is desirable to protect our profession and to serve better our patients. ERO has a very important mission: to keep a sense of unity within itself and within the FDI; a sense of unity between the Western, the Central and the Eastern Europe. It is important for the present European countries and the ones that are not yet part of the EU, especially those of the Eastern European region. For them ERO is the dental professional initial phase. With time each one of them will become eventually member. ERO has the important task in this initiation and integration process. However each country has its own traditions and cultures that we have to respect. We definitely cannot force a harmonisation and standardisation process in the matters of education and practice of dentistry from one day to the other. We should integrate them gradually by their level of acceptance, by respecting the traditions and cultures and also the needs and the means of the patients, which can be very different from the western ones. Finally we would like to have your opinions, advices and criticism about our activities. Your input is very important for us to guide our work efficiently." Bedros Yavruk-Sakuk closes by saying that he is proud to work with his fellow board members and will continue to do so and he thanks everybody for the continuing support and confidence.

Stefaan Hanson supports Michael Frank's remark regarding the collaboration of CED and ERO. Peter Engel reminds that there is a clear distinction between the tasks of these associations. CED takes care of the political questions which arise from the EU, whereas ERO has a different range of tasks. ERO is not really political, but of course there are topics that have to be discussed together. To avoid different results, subjects should not be doubly treated. There should be a very clear assignment of tasks.

It was not Michael Frank's goal to start a political discussion, but there are topics with quite extensive overlaps, like the dental team, where Edoardo Cavallé takes part in both commissions. It would be extremely important to have a mutual agreement on these topics.

Every member of the ERO board is aware, that the CED has a very important political mission, adds Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. "We are adaptive and have also a good memory", remarks Philippe Rusca. "We do



by no means want to work against CEDs interests, but there are common topics that have to be treated jointly”.

Wolfgang Doneus looks back on a long time in the European dental “business”. There were several efforts to work together, but it is not so easy. He generally supports the attempt to try to cooperate and we will keep trying it in the future. But it should be considered that CED is differently organized and has a different assignment of tasks. Both organisations have enough work to do and where it can be done together, they will try to do it together.

Ward van Dyk supports the idea of working together. However he was a little bit surprised that there are two statements on the same issue. They should of course be similar in their content, adds Bedros Yavrusak. And Michael Frank would appreciate a common opinion (ERO and CED) on the paper that will be discussed and adopted later under point C 7.8.

C.5 Member countries

5.1 National reports

Gerhard Seeberger thanks all those who have submitted their reports. He hopes that there will be even more next year.

Anna Lella has the pleasure to provide the delegates with a summary of the national reports. “Under the ERO constitution ERO is an organisation of the FDI in accordance with the chap. 7 of the FDI constitution, which means that any of the regular or associate members from FDI is allowed to ERO. Currently ERO gather dental associations from a large part of the world far beyond the geographic Europe. This makes ERO an important organisation and allows us to learn a lot from each other. By April 8th the secretariat received only 16 national reports; which is the base for this presentation”. Additionally Anna Lella received reports from Germany, Azerbaijan, Spain and Bulgaria. The national reports are important information about the situation of dentistry in Europe. The information in the reports can be helpful not only for the ERO as a whole, but also for a particular national association that faces similar problems and could benefit from how others deal with the matter. Therefore, she once again encourages all of the member associations to submit their national report on regular basis. As in previous years the reports are to be found on the website. In her presentation she only gives selected information that has drawn her attention related to the matters raised by several countries.

Anna Lella starts her presentations by congratulating the newly elected or re-elected presidents and board members in Cyprus, Italy, Romania, Spain and Turkey. The presentation is added to these minutes. You can find more information in the national reports. Please have a look at them on the website.

Armenia has a huge output of dentists trained in private institutions, informs Ashot Gevorgyan and Armenia is in the first place in Europe as far as the number of dentists per capita is concerned; the rate is 17 dentists per 10'000 inhabitants. He asks ERO and FDI for help to find a solution for this big problem.

Gerhard Seeberger does not know how we can influence the plethora in this country. Nermin Yamalik's WG dealing with platforms, where national dental associations and dental faculty within the ERO zone can cooperate and improve their partnership. Negotiations with authorities regarding certain dentals issue is one of the items.

Some time ago, adds Ashot Gevorgyan, European parliament asked Armenia to adopt a law which would allow any individual to set up an education. A lot of people grabbed that chance. He believes that this issue can only be solved, if the WHO gets involved. The public organisations and the government are not obliged to take into account ERO's decisions, but he hopes that through ERO they can talk to WHO, who could demand the Armenian government to consider the situation and to deep freeze the



number of students. Nick Sharkov said that in Bulgaria there are 115 students graduating per year, in Armenia it is 1000.

Michael Frank refers to the principle of liberal practice. It would quite distress him to try to influence the Armenian government, even though he understands Ashot Gevorgyan's problem very well. Who ever has the qualification for admission to a dental education, should be given the possibility to do so. In Europe there are well-defined requirements, how the academic studies must be set. If they Armenians would take over these requirements, maybe this could be the solution.

This discussion is delicate, thinks Peter Engel. We are talking about liberal profession, personal responsibility and we try to defend us against "over-regulation" of any kind and on the other hand we attempt to limit the competition. "I can only warn against doing so; we will no more be trustworthy in our resolutions".

There is nothing against private institutions, declares Wolfgang Sprekels, as long as they fulfil the requirements for an academic education. If they have the same level as state universities, there is little chance to do anything against them.

"In Armenia we have an over-licensing of dentists and it is an educational problem", specifies Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. "State and private universities are allowed to educate and license dentists, but there are simply too many graduates to give everybody the possibility to exercise their profession. It is a matter of regulating the educational system in cooperation with the health ministry".

The only possibility would be to give some average values (number of dentists per 1000 inhabitants) like we know them from FDI, suggests Philippe Rusca.

Patrick Hescot supports Philippe Rusca. There was a time when we talked of 1 dentist per 1500 inhabitants; this is a value issued by WHO and has served as a basis for many countries. We could make a policy statement. Maybe a working group or the board could take care of this subject. The value issued by WHO is only a minimal standard and there is no prescription that it cannot be more, remarks Michael Frank. He is not in favour of giving any recommendation in this respect. The only thing that can be requested are minimal standards regarding the education.

Juan Antonio Lopez Calvo reports about an executive system body established by a Spanish private university a couple of years ago according to which students only go to classes on weekends. In the end this particular way of studies was not sufficiently accredited and abandoned. What we are calling for on a European level is, that dental students by receiving a certificate have an academic and not a professional accreditation. And only after receiving the professional training they would be able to practice dentistry. In Spain they we are hoping that this will soon be implemented.

Wolfgang Sprekels summarises the discussion: "There is a call for help from Armenia, which should be taken seriously. From the economic point of view there is an over production of dentists. If all these dentists, with certificate from private or state universities, have the same level of education and fulfil the qualification requirements, then they are allowed to practice and no one – neither the Armenian Dental Association, nor this parliament – have a chance to intervene. In this case the government must/should act and define an upper limit of the number of dentists, but this is planned economy, which no one really wants anymore. If the education of the private university should prove to be on a lower level than the one of the state university, this could be the starting point for the Armenian Dental Association to request, that these dentists should not be allowed to practice". He suggests that Ashot Gevorgyan provides the board with more and detailed information; then there should be a brainstorming to find out, if there wouldn't eventually be a solution to this problem.



Stefaan Hanson would like to have more information about this dentist's right council that has been created in Poland (see national report). Marek Szewczynski explains that this office is an internal part of their chamber, representing the individual rights of doctors and dentists. It has no legal identity like for example the speaker for patient's rights has in some other countries. This office is the speaker for the doctor's rights and tries to assist those who have problems like unjustified opinions given about them, disputes with patients or organisations, etc. In some cases it might be able to give legal assistance.

C.6 Presentation of the candidates for the FDI Election

The candidates for the position of FDI president-elect, Dr. Tin Chun Wong, Dr. Greg Chadwick and Dr. Gerhard Seeberger and the candidate for FDI council, Dr. How Kim Chuan have the floor.

C.7 Working groups

7.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Philippe Rusca thanks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach for his unfailing efforts. Recently there has been a meeting in Cologne with many participants. This morning, for the first time, the meeting room was too small to host all persons interested in participating in the WG meeting. Apart from the topic, which will be presented afterward, Catherine Mojaisky brought in some interesting information about new tracks of research that could influence our future work.

"Liberal dental practice has been referred to in many of today's discussions", remarks Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach. "It must be an important topic, though".

"As already mentioned in an e-mail sent to all NDA, we have agreed in Salvador to update the principle of liberal dental practice. We tried to find answers to the following questions: What are the basic elements of liberal practice today? How consistent is the current development of professional practices with fundamental principles of liberal dental practice? This has led to the following considerations:

Liberal dental practice is the most important basis of our daily work. If we are not able to work under free conditions all other demands in our profession will come in danger.

The working conditions in dental practices are very different within the ERO territory. On one side, an update of fundamental features of liberal professions can be helpful for those countries where health and social systems are already operative or in construction. On the other side, there are countries where social laws, medical fee schedules, state-run regulations and directives endanger our individual and independent services. Even in the most liberal country of Switzerland cantonal authorities are trying to implement a government controlled dental care system. It was the main goal of the WG to identify the conflicts with regard to the freedom of profession and finally to make note of our ideas about the characteristics of liberal profession in a resolution. In the course of IDS in Cologne the WG LDPE has developed a working paper and a draft resolution, which has been spread to the delegates/NDA with the purpose to give you first information and the opportunity to discuss the WG's proposal. Two definitions, one by the European Court of Justice and the other by the German Federal Association of independent professions were the basis for the discussion of the term and meaning of "liberal profession".

"Based on the discussion in the WG, the description of the current situation with its consequences in our daily work and the negative influence on the occupational image, we developed a proposal for a resolution having the purpose of strengthening the liberal dental practice". Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach is very pleased about the WG meeting here in Sofia. He thanks the members of his group for their support and collaboration. He presents then the results of the WG meetings (presentation is attached - www.erodental.org).

Since no one asks for the word, the resolution of the WG Liberal Dental Practice is voted and adopted unanimously. (The resolution is attached- www.erodental.org.)



Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach expresses his gratitude for the confidence placed in his group. “I think liberal dental practice is a very important issue in this panel and I hope it is helpful for those countries who are in construction of their social and health systems and on the other hand for those countries who are in the cage of dental regulations.”

7.2 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Nermin Yamalik thanks all those that have responded to the questionnaire. She presents a summary of the answers (see attached presentation - www.erodental.org). “Now that we know what the dental associations think about their relationship with the dental faculties, it would be interesting to know the opinion of the university. In this purpose there will be another questionnaire, which will be sent to the universities, provided the consent of the respective dental association.”

Nermin Yamalik further points to the new forum on the ERO website, which is now being tested and then will give a room to exchange information and opinions.

Edoardo Cavallé thinks this last point should be developed. What is being done in this WG, is very good and very important, remarks Patrick Hescot. There is a gap between university and profession, which has effects on the work of the practitioner. Our goal is to educate the dental students as good as possible and for this cooperation is needed. The first step is now accomplished.

“Do you think that there is a way of finding in this diversity a common denominator/formulation to improve the relations between the universities and practitioners”, asks Bedros Yavru-Sakuk.

Nermin Yamalik of course hopes that this will be possible. After having the answers from the dental faculties, the two parties should be brought together in order to find solutions. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk suggests taking a closer look on the relations between the NDA and the health ministries, too. This could be very interesting and might be another topic – maybe for another WG.

7.3 Integration

Gerhard Seeberger is glad to announce that Elena Iwanowa has been confirmed as chairperson of the working group in yesterday’s meeting.

Elena Iwanowa thanks the members of her group for their work.

‘Integration’ is the new name of this WG. The enlargement of the ERO is more or less completed (except the Scandinavian countries), but integration between East and West is needed. ERO covers a big territory and of course being all together makes us strong. The purpose of this working group is the exchange between new and old ERO countries. The key to integration is communication. We are willing to organize and solidify the relations between new and old countries, our wish is the strengthening and the improvement of ERO, declares Elena Iwanowa. We expect to know what is going on in the new ERO countries in order to solve dental health matters. A meeting of all presidents of former soviet countries dental associations to establish a program of collaboration will be organised in Moscow by the end of April.

Philippe Rusca underlines that there has been quite a big enlargement towards the East over the last couple of years, which makes integration now really necessitated. The delegates from these new ERO countries often participate in our assemblies, still we don’t know what is going on in their home countries. Bedros Yavru-Sakuk congratulates Elena Iwanowa on her election and wishes her luck. It is very important to bring those countries together. Exchanges will be beneficial for both sides and he hopes all will profit.

Since ERO is very much spreading into the East, Peter Engel wants to know, if there are countries which belong to more and one regional association. In order to avoid conflicts, this has always been checked, answers Philippe Rusca.



Patrick Hescot inquires about the Scandinavian countries. They all have been invited to participate and would be very welcome, remarks Gerhard Seeberger. Only from Finland came a clear “no”; all others seem to be in a stand-by position.

7.4 Prevention

Denis Bourgeois looks back on the tasks and the history of this WG. “Public health should be a pillar stone in all member countries. Our profession takes an important part in public health, as collector of information and surveillant of the state of oral health. It is important to have a transversal vision. Chronic pathologies, diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases are illnesses that regard our profession as well. In Salvador we talked about a 3-phase-plan, which starts by reviewing the literature, preparing a resolution and making contacts. A review of literature has been made since Salvador. Various publications have been analysed, with the purpose to determine the relation between dentistry and cardio-vascular diseases. It proved to be more difficult than expected, but in the end he found 35 important references (please see the presentation attached - www.erodental.org).”

There will be a final paper for the next assembly, announces Denis Bourgeois, which the delegates will be asked to vote. Further there will be a workshop in Geneva, where the recommendations will be finalised. He expects the participation of experts and interested dentists from the different member states. A participation in the Europerio 2012 would also be possible.

Philippe Rusca invites the delegates to participate in this WG. More members are needed. Nick Sharkov deplores that there is a number of members not being very active. Cardiovascular diseases caused by oral health problems are increasing rapidly. It is a very important topic which is discussed in Bulgaria, too.

7.5 Quality in Dentistry

Roland L'Herron: “Our profession plays a major role in the definition of quality and security of our medical acts and of the environment. On the other hand it is not up to an international organisation like ours, to define a standardised quality, which has to be applied by everybody. Quality is relied to the technological progress in each country. It can always be ameliorated and this is the common point. It starts by the best possible basic education, followed by life-long continuing education and a permanent evaluation of our practices. The group’s purpose is to state a minimal standard of quality and to define quality criteria. A methodology and respective instruments shall be provided. A questionnaire is being prepared.”

Roland L'Herron was quite astonished how few members were in this group, when he took over a year ago. To his surprise and delight there were nine participants in yesterday’s meeting. “Quality is in on everybody’s tongue, as we have seen in this assembly. So there is going to be another meeting in Paris, where the questionnaire will be finalised. The answers to this questionnaire will hopefully permit to make a statement. The demography must be controlled even if there is liberal practice; it must be adjusted according to the needs of the country. This issue cannot only be treated by the CED countries; the others must as well take part in it.”

Every country will have to work out a list of criteria itself, answers Roland L'Herron to Bedros Yavru-Sakuk’s question. We will not provide a list; we will only give them the instruments to establish such a list. Jürgen Fedderwitz supports this idea; the profession must take care of the principles of quality. They should then have a structure that gives a basis to all ERO countries. We cannot establish any sort of ranking and we have to look at it from different points of view, adds Michael Frank. We must avoid looking at it only from the result-side. He once again invites the delegates to join this working group.

7.6 Basic + continuing education

Alex Mersel is proud to be part of ERO since 25 years. He reports on the questionnaire that has been sent out, cites the questions and the results (see report attached - www.erodental.org). He is convinced that a life-long continuing education is a must. Next year this WG will study the problem of the examinations.



7.7 Women in Dentistry

There is no report since Vesna Barac-Furtinger could not participate in this plenary session.

7.8 Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé presents the results of the work of his group on the Dental Chair-Side Assistant (see presentation attached - www.erodental.org).

Ralph Wagner hopes that this definition regarding the DCA will be accepted. But before, he would like to cancel the sentence that says, a DCA will never be allowed to work in the mouth of a patient, because this has not been discussed in the WG. Edoardo Cavallé cites the 1st and 2nd paragraph of the preamble (the auxiliaries in the dental team are allowed to: carry out only the delegated tasks for which he/she is duly and legally qualified or trained pursuant to the provisions of the respective country; carry out these tasks solely under the supervision of a dentist who shall be present in the dental practice). He thinks this is a clear statement.

According to the WG a DCA can – under supervision - carry out medical acts, if the legislation of the respective country allows it, remarks Ralph Wagner. He refers to the resolution which was adopted in Singapore, where it says: “The dental team, led by the dentist, is essential in the prevention of oral diseases and in ensuring the best possible quality of oral health care. All members of the dental team shall have the education and training appropriated for their competencies and legally be allowed to participate in the delivery of oral health care always under supervision and responsibility of a dentist.” This has been adopted 2009 and that is why he wants this sentences to be cancelled.

Michael Frank suggests to add the word „alone“ (to work alone) and the sentence is okay. Wolfgang Sprekels seconds this idea.

Juan Antonio Lopez is not really happy with this paper. The training in Spain is shorter, and Spanish legislation does not allow the performance of any activities on the patient by DCAs. He further asks regarding point 2, what is meant by these accredited institutions and/or registered dental practices?

The French cannot accept this change, declares Roland L'Herron. France is in the same situation as Spain. It is out of question that a DCA is carrying out any medical acts. Neither the education, nor the legislation would allow that.

This introduction of the term ‘alone’ puts in question the sentence before, remarks Paulo Melo. Then we could imagine that the DCA could do anything she wants in the mouth of the patient. Therefore we should not add ‘alone’ in the sentence. Regarding the formation of the DCA, it is stated, that they should have 500 hours of theoretical preparation; the practical preparation, which they should also have, is not included. He would like to stay with the initial wording.

Ralph Wagner knows that the French have a different view; but they have been part of the WG and he does not understand why they will now withhold their approval. The issue has been discussed for a long time. First in CED, followed by the resolution in Singapore, where we stressed on the fact, that the legislation of the respective country must be respected. It would be helpful, if we could agree at least on some minimal basic standards.

Hans Schrangl remarks that the slides, which Edoardo Cavallé has shown, do not correspond with the text that should be voted on.

We have to be very careful what we write in these papers, reminds Enrico Lai. DCA are only auxiliary personal without a medical profile. He strongly advises against adding the word “alone”.

Michael Frank reminds to be careful, not to contradict by this statement what has been adopted in the Singapore paper. It should be no problem just to remove this sentence, which says a DCA will never be allowed to work in the mouth of a patient.



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Jürgen Fedderwitz insists: there are two papers, one from February 2011, without this sentence and one from March 2011, with this sentence. He does not remember having taken a decision to add this sentence. Edoardo Cavallé explains that it was added – after a very large discussion – to enforce the text, but he sees no problem to delete it.

We did not want to change the text, confirms Catherine Mojaiski. The text that was shown by Edoardo Cavallé is the one adopted by the WG and everybody has received. It might be that not everybody is aware of the evolution it has undergone.

Stefaan Hanson would like to make a general statement. This discussion proves clearly that WG meetings “in situ” are difficult. If a text is being changed just one day before it has to be voted, it is always very difficult to find a new consensus. Please, don’t change texts that have been distributed and shown to the boards of NDAs at home. He further remarks that an ERO statement will never cover all legal and actual situations in all the different countries. A statement is not necessarily reflecting the situation in the respective countries; it is more what we would like the situation to be. Coming from a country, where DCA under no circumstance can work in the mouth of a patient, I have participated in the work of the group and it was clearly stated, that this resolution could have consequences in one or the other country. But it is well clearly said, that the national legislation has to be considered. Deleting this sentences makes this statement more important than leaving it there.

Gerhard Seeberger: Even if this paper is only a statement, but it is of course taken as a basis in the countries where situations are different. He points to a proposal of law which has recently been published in Italy, according to which the DCA should have a pivot role in the dental team. There are a lot of questions indirectly linked to this discussion. He feels that the situation is a little bit confusing and he reminds the delegates that we have a big responsibility. It’s obvious that the DCA works with us together in the mouth.

In Russia, explains Vladimir Wagner, we have a similar situation like in Spain and France. The DCA is not permitted to work in the mouth of a patient, even if the dentist is present. The training is 5 ½ years and they have over 500 hours of theory. Nevertheless we don’t think it is acceptable for a DCA to work in the mouth of a patient and he cannot carry the responsibility for the safety of her activities and treatments. It would be the right thing to delete this sentence from the preamble. The legislation of the country should decide; it would be desirable to have a very precise wording.

The basis for the DCA’s training should be compulsory school and not high school, declares Edoardo Cavallé. This profile should be practical, useful and taken under the “umbrella” of the dental member’s associations. We should not leave this profile to the academicians, because if it becomes a university course, a high school diploma will be needed. It must be underlined that this profile is the lowest level and equally valid for everybody. Edoardo Cavallé would appreciate that a deadline, until which every country should adopt this statement, could be fixed.

We could talk hours about this, remarks Ward van Dijk. About the hygienists we talked already years ago. This kind of topic will always be difficult to discuss in a meeting like this. In general the biggest problem we have here is the difference between wish and reality. We all wish that the dentist is the team leader; we always try to resist any involvement of the government (i.e. regarding dental therapists, nurses, etc.). The Netherlands are - probably together with some other countries - on another level as far as dental hygienists and DCAs are concerned. The dental assistants in Holland are allowed to work in the mouth of the patients; even if the dentist is not present in the practice (he should be available within a short notice though). This is a discussion we are having with the authorities. It is very difficult to work out a statement of ERO or CED on matters like this. We agreed last year on the issue “substitution yes - delegation no”. The Dutch had some difficulties with that statement as well, because our legislation is completely different than in most countries. So the statement, which is discussed here, is what we wish



that the situation should be in Holland, but it is not and because reality is different, we cannot agree with the wording in this statement. He refers to the last paragraph of the preamble. Are the dental organisations that have adopted this DCA profile ERO and CED? And since the board already explained that the member states will be in charge of implementing this profile, why write that it will be forwarded to the European legislative competent authorities? Shouldn't this be deleted then

Collaboration is according to Bedros Yavru-Sakuk a very critical word. Collaboration is when you work with a person that has the same skills, the same knowledge. He pleads to write (1st sentence of the profile): ... dental practices only under the supervision of the dentist; instead of in collaboration with the dentist." In the 2nd sentence it should read: "The qualified dental chairside assistant helps...", instead of "supports the dentist. The DCA doesn't have the capacity to support and collaborate.

After this lively discussion Gerhard Seeberger proceeds to the vote on the March version of the DCA-Paper. The amendments proposed by Bedros Yavru-Sakuk are adopted unanimously. Then 3 delegates vote against the deletion of the sentence "DCA never be allowed to work in the mouth of the patient", 2 abstain. This sentences will therefore be deleted.

Finally the delegates adopt the statement with the above amendments with 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

Edoardo Cavallé thanks the delegates and announces that the WG will now start to work on the profile of the dental hygienist. He closes with the request to answer to the documents sent out for examination within the deadline. Whereas Ward van Dijk recommends to have people from UK, Holland and Scandinavia involved in the discussion and thinking process about the dental hygienist.

7.9 Approval of the reports of the working groups

All reports of the working groups are approved.

C.8 ERO-Elections

A new treasurer, a new auditor and the chair of the WG Integration are to be elected/confirmed.

The board has proposed Michael Frank as the new treasurer. No one asks for the word. He is elected unanimously. Michael Frank thanks for the confidence.

Enrico Lai is the only candidate for the position of auditor. The delegates know him and there is no further discussion or presentation. He is elected unanimously.

Elena Iwanowa who acted as chairwoman a.i. of the WG Integration has been elected by her WG members and this position is confirmed by the board and the delegates.

C.9 FDI

Roberto Vianna informs about the news within the FDI. Out of a field of 38 good candidates the new executive director has been elected. His name is Jean-Luc Eisele; he came from the associative field and was executive director of the European lung federation for several years. Since March 7 he is working at the headquarters in Geneva and the FDI president reports about very nice results regarding the projects that they were able to put in place. Over 30 projects involving social issues with one of our main supporter, Unilever, are now in the process of finalisation. Everything should be in place before the next general assembly that will take place in Mexico.

Roberto Vianna informs about FDI's participation in a world health professional alliance, which reunites the global leaders of nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, dentists and physicians. This alliance of World Health Professions WHPA is launching a campaign about the global epidemic of non-



communicable diseases (NCDs), which has become a significant threat to human health and development. A UN high level meeting on this issue will take place in September 2011.

The FDI president is pleased to announce that they were able to get a new supporter, a pharmaceutical association on research, and that they signed a finance support of CHF 170'000 for a project. He finally informs about FDI's participation on the UN environment protection agency. The toxicity of mercury is also part of this UNEP project, where FDI is participating and trying to find out how we could help and how could we influence the governments in the ideal management of the promotion of (oral) health of the world population.

C.10 Finances

10.1 Settlement of accounts 2010

As they knew that a treasurer would be elected, Anna Lella and Philippe Rusca took together care of the finances, declares the latter. The financial situation is very comfortable. He refers to the figures that were published on the website. We kept close to the budget and there were no extraordinary charges in 2010. The registration procedure was easier and cost less than expected, because the lawyers of our associations revised the new constitution and this did not cause any additional expenses. There were some economies as well in the translations. Philippe Rusca reminds that when he took over in 2004 there were no funds at all, but in the meantime ERO has quite a nice fortune at its disposal. By sometimes refusing requests he did not make himself very popular; but he assures that it has always been in the interest of the association. The accounts 2010 show a benefit of 41'463.64 €. The situation as per 31st December 2010 presents a capital of 147'743.07 €. This is a nice result which opens various possibilities. He refers to the budget 2011 where an amount is reserved for the working groups. The board will decide in line with the budget about financial support for a good project. However a request must be well motivated. The biggest part of the expenses is to cover the costs of the spring plenary sessions, which amounts to about 30'000 €.

Jörg Krainhöfner asks if ERO can keep a Euro-account, now that we are registered in Switzerland. Philippe Rusca affirms. We will try to keep this and he assumes that this should be possible.

The accounts 2010 are adopted unanimously.

10.2 Outstanding fees

At the end of 2010 there were outstanding fees of 8038 €. Those that did not yet pay will or are being contacted directly, remarks Philippe Rusca. They will be informed that according to the constitution termination of membership in the ERO shall be automatic after failure to fulfil financial obligations for two calendar years.

10.3 Budget 2011

The budget 2011 shows only minor changes in respect to the budget 2010. Philippe Rusca explains that lost subscription fees are membership fees that never have been paid by NDAs that have been expelled from ERO (see above).

Philippe Rusca thanks for the unanimous acceptance of the budget 2011. The Swiss treasurer is proud to leave ERO a nice fortune and entrusts it to the new treasurer's safekeeping.

Michael Frank thanks his predecessor and the assembly for the confidence provided. He promises to correctly and carefully handle ERO's fortune. It is not enormous, neither are the revenues and 8000 € of outstanding fees is a relatively high amount. He therefore begs the NDAs to pay the subscription fees in time. If – in individual cases – there should arise difficulties, he appreciates immediate information in order to find a way to solve the problem.

Gerhard Seeberger thanks Philippe Rusca for his excellent work.



C.11 Next meetings

11.1 Plenary session 2011, Mexico

It will most probably take place on Wednesday, 14th September 2011, informs the president.

11.2 Plenary session 2012, Prague

Jiri Zemen presents Prague as the next venue of the spring plenary session. It will be a pleasure to meet in the beautiful Czech capital, assures Gerhard Seeberger.

It follows a discussion, initiated by Stefaan Hanson, about the procedure of the plenary session. Peter Engel as well as Patrick Hescot would like to go back to the former procedure, where there was the plenary session on Friday and Saturday morning and the recreational part on Saturday afternoon and sometimes as well on Sunday. This would make us lose less working time in our offices and would be easier to explain to the national dental associations at home. Ashot Gevorgyan agrees with this and pleads for organising the plenary session at the beginning of May, when the weather is more pleasant. Claus Munck reminds that for the beginning of May 2012, a CED meeting is already scheduled.

The majority of the delegates vote for going back to the old system and they are unanimously in favour of April 27/28, 2012 for holding the plenary session in Prague.

11.3 Plenary session 2013

There is a candidature for the spring plenary session 2013 by the German Dental Association, which ERO happily accepts. Gerhard Seeberger informs that it will be in Potsdam (near Berlin) and most probably at the End of April. We will come back to this in Mexico.

C.12 Miscellaneous

Edoardo Cavallé, chairman of the dental practice committee FDI, announces that there will be a questionnaire about risk management and patient safety. This is very important and he asks all NDAs to fill in and return the questionnaire.

Vladimir Vagner asks about the appointment of Elena Iwanowa as chairwoman of the WG Integration and Gerhard Seeberger reconfirms it and repeats that we are happy to have her in this position.

D Close of the meeting

Gerhard Seeberger thanks for a wonderful meeting and the excellent work that has been accomplished by the delegates, his board member and the interpreters.

He adjourns the meeting at 16.00 h.

Dr. Gerhard Seeberger
President

Monika Lang
Minutes