

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

The logo consists of the letters 'ERO' in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a red rectangular border.

ERO

European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



Update 2011

« Liberal Dental Practice
in Europe »

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Members of the WG:

- DROZDOV, Michael (Russia)
- KELLER, Francois (Switzerland)
- KISELEVA, Elena (Russia)
- LAI, Enrico (Italy)
- MOJAISKI, Catherine (France)
- OTTERBACH, Ernst-Jürgen (Germany)
- RUSCA, Philippe (Switzerland)
- SADOWSKI, Wolfram (Germany)
- SPIALEK, Anna (Poland)
- SZEWCZYNSKI, Marek (Poland)
- TSIOGAS, Georgios (Greece)
- WAGNER, Ralph (Germany)

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Definitions of liberal practice:

- The European Court of Justice in 2001
- Definition of « liberal practice » by the Federal Association of independent professions in Germany

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Current situation:

- Consumer habits and social change compromises the status of liberal practice
- Especially social policy, basic regulatory and fiscal constraints are the reasons – the main players are government and cost bearers

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Current situation:

- Antagonism of „commerce vs. ethos“
- Differentiation between dental care providers and commercial traders is becoming unclear

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Consequences:

- Features and independent images of liberal dental practice are getting eroded such as:
 - professional competence and personal responsibility
 - quality of dental care
 - trust between patient and dentist

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Consequences:

- individual and independent services of dental care providers
- freedom in diagnosis and therapy
- autonomous self-control via self-government by the liberal professions
- social responsibility
- free choice of doctor

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Bearing on the occupational image:

- increasing dependencies weaken the social role
- area of tension between liberty and commitment
- asymmetry between regulation (social law, medical fee schedules, guidelines, regulations, directives) and liberal practice
- economic aspects interfere with the independent image of liberal practice

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Bearing on the occupational image:

- risk of increasing externally controlled professionalism
- weakening of self-dependent courses of action within the scope of liberal practice
- danger of wasting confidence between patient and service provider because of apparent external restraints

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Solution to this conflict:

- Recognition and preservation of features and principles of liberal practice incumbent to the legislative
- recognition of ethical principles (code of ethics) of liberal professions
- recognition of social responsibility, defrayed by the liberal professionals due to their personal and independent work

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Solution to this conflict:

- extensive recognition of autonomous associations or self-governments according to the liberal professions
- clear definition of liberal practice compared to activities with pure mercantile aspects

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Proposal of a resolution (part 1):

Strengthening liberal dental practice

- Liberal professions are a pillar of any free society.
- For the dentist liberal practice means:
- Free choice of treatment, freedom of association, free competition, free choice of doctor and responsibility for our own professional conduct.

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Suggestion of a resolution (part 2):

- In the interest of their patients, dentists are committed to ethical and legal principles when exercising their profession.
- Currently dentists are caught up in the conflicting demands of a sweeping, often state driven desire to regulate, the needs and wishes of patients and the interests of liberal practice.

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Suggestion of a resolution (part 3):

- The European Regional Organisation of the FDI affirms its longstanding goal of building and **preserving “liberal dental practice”** – not least for the sake of our patients. This is the focus of our work in the ERO and its member countries.

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Suggestion of a resolution (part 4):

- The European Regional Organisation of the FDI calls upon political decision-makers in our member countries to strengthen the role of the liberal professions; it is of vital importance, moreover, to enhance decisively the general conditions for exercising liberal professions in the field of health.

ERO WG Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Thank you very much!

To the members of the working group

+

for your attention