

# Regional European Organisation of the FDI

## National Report

**Country: Belgium**

**Association: Flemish Dental Association (VVT)**

**Venue:Tbilisi**

**Year: 2015**

Please classify your national report by following subjects:

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

VVT elected in January 2014 Philippe Decroock as his new president.

From 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 Stefaan Hanson retired as executive director from the Flemish Dental Association, having completed this mandate for 21 years. In order to achieve change in continuity Stefaan remains active for VVT as consultant, being permanent invitee of the board and council meetings. No new executive director is being appointed.

VVT, non for profit association, is restructuring his leadership, following the concept of the KNMT (the Netherlands). 6 departments are created with 6 department presidents: professional matters and practice management, science (continuing education) society service (prevention, sensibilisation, special needs), communication, member services and secretariat, finances.

The GA adopted this proposed structure, 2015 being a year of trying out the new structure. After evaluation of the new structure, the statutes of the association have to be changed, to implement definitively the new structure in 2016.

### **II. Trends and developments:**

- in national legislation

New regulations for the traceability of implants.

The 6<sup>th</sup> State Reform came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The regions become more competent in health affairs.

- professional politics;

Problems with the workforce planning: the federal government is in conflict with the French speaking Minister of education since the French speaking universities accept 5 times more students than the federal government planning.

In top of that national workforce planning becomes more and more under pressure because of the freedom of international migration , promoted by the EU.

In the Flemish part of Belgium an education for “dental treatment assistant” is under construction. We oppose to create “dental hygienists” since those are in different countries not acting under delegation, but wish to substitute the dentist.

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

The convention between the representative dental associations and the sickfunds fixing the honorary and reimbursements coming to end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014, a new convention had to be negotiated.

Although the government decided no budget cuts for dentistry, the negotiations were announced to be very very difficult: to become in application in the whole country at least 60% of the colleagues have to accept individually the convention . For the last convention 2013-2014 the degree of acceptance was going down, since more and more colleagues could not accept the convention honorary, since they follow not enough the cost of the management of a dental practice.

After long and very hard negotiations we found an agreement for 2015-2016 that was acceptable for the government and the sickfunds. We needed to convince the colleagues to accept the convention, because in this economic and social difficult times, it was the best that we could get. The new convention came into force from march 30<sup>th</sup> 2015.

As a follow-up of the VVT studies and pilots concerning special need patients ( see [www.specialdent.be](http://www.specialdent.be) the Convention foresees in a supplementary honorary for treatment of special care patients.

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

VVT continued in 2014 for the sixth year the Federal government subsidised sensibilisation campaign Glimlachen.be ( see reports [www.glimlachen.be](http://www.glimlachen.be) ).

Due to the State Reform, from January 2015 the campaign will be subsidised trough the Flemish Government.

VVT launched his new website see [www.vvt.be](http://www.vvt.be)