

Regional European Organisation of the FDI National Report

Country: FRANCE
Association: Association dentaire française, ADF
Venue: TBILISSI **Year:** 2015

I. Changes in the association and its organisation

There were no changes within the French Dental Association.

II. Trends and developments

In professional politics

Demography

The French National Dental Council confirms the significant increase in the number of holders of foreign graduates practicing in France: 34.7% of the "first-registered," that is to say practitioners enrolling for the first time in France, were graduates outside France (they were "only" 27.9% in 2013). They are mainly European graduates (graduates from outside EU remains anecdotal), from Romania (218 registered), Spain (132), Portugal (74). In terms of nationality, the French "first-registered" are 69.5% of the total enrollment in France; (they were 85.6% in 2010).

Accessibility of healthcare premises to disabled persons

Law no. 2005-102 of 11 February 2005 on the Equality of Rights and Opportunities, Participation and Citizenship of People with Disabilities (*Loi pour l'égalité des droits et des chances, la participation et la citoyenneté des personnes handicapées*), imposes that disabled persons have access to everything, everywhere and always, without assistance. The law is applicable to all new establishments and to all healthcare professionals, including dentists.

For existing establishments, decrees published in 2014 allow exemptions in relation to the existing buildings, to technical impossibilities, and to obvious economical disproportions.

In health politics

A law for economic growth and activity (*Loi croissance et activité*)

In September 2014, a draft bill presented by the Minister of Finance, aiming at reforming the regulated professions in order to "give back purchasing power to French households" had the effect of a bomb among the regulated professions, including healthcare professions. With regard to dentists, the draft bill provided for the abolition of the *numerus clausus*, the introduction of external funding into independent private practices, and the disclosure of the purchasing price of dental prostheses, so that dentists would have the obligation to indicate the cost for them of the dental prosthesis in the quote given to the patient. The general aim of the bill was to "abolish the monopolies and private incomes of the regulated professions".

A day "without private practices" was held on 30 September, during which all practices – medical, legal (bailiffs, lawyers, attorneys, etc.), and technical (architects, chartered accountants, etc.) – were closed.

Uncertain that it would be able to obtain the necessary majority for the adoption of the bill for economic growth and activity, the French Government resorted in mid-February to an exceptional legal procedure that allows it to pass a law without putting it to the vote of the deputies.

Everything in the draft bill relevant to health has since been integrated into another, **new draft bill for health (*Loi de santé*)**, and the main inter-professional demand in relation to external funding by non-professionals seems to have been heard as, in the new text, external funding should be restricted to professionals from the same branch.

A law for Health (*loi de santé*)

Announced within the framework of the National strategy for health, the **draft health bill** was presented in late 2014 by the French Minister of Health. It is perceived as a means for the State to regain control over Health, and raises a number of concerns amongst dentists, in particular with regard to the generalisation of the third-party payment system (*Tiers payant*), to the capping of the prices of prosthetic and orthodontic care delivered to the beneficiaries of the ACS (*Aide à la complémentaire santé*, a financial assistance system that helps pay for complementary health insurance), and to the part played by the public authorities in the negotiations on national agreements.

In a context of general anger, private general practitioners' unions launched a vast protestation campaign in late December 2014, with many private practices staying closed. The protestation campaign was largely supported and quickly spread to all private healthcare professionals.

A national demonstration was planned on 22 January 2015 to protest against the State's harmful policy and two draft bills. However, the tragic events that plunged the country into mourning at the beginning of the year, and the show of solidarity of millions of French people on 11 January 2015, led to the cancellation of the demonstration, while the call to keep practices shut was maintained.

The profession continues to oppose the draft bill in its current formulation, which compromises dentists' work conditions and does not take into account the need for an overall reform of dentistry. It has demanded by way of a press release that the debates at Parliament planned in April be postponed so that the entire text may be redrafted. The dental profession also took part in the national demonstration on 15 March 2015, which was attended by 50.000 angry healthcare professionals. A collective group of 46 health professions unions and student organisations, known as the Movement for the health of all (*Mouvement Pour la Santé de Tous*) was set up for the occasion.

To date, over 1.500 amendments to the draft bill have been proposed. The draft bill has now been retitled "**Law modernizing our health system**" (*loi de modernisation de notre système de santé*).

In educational politics

Vocational training

CLESI-PESSOA, the Private Portuguese university

A decree on private higher education institutions was published in the Official Journal on 20 June

2014¹, which stipulates new rules for these establishments:

- They must apply for a public interest qualification
- They must specify their "for-profit" nature, the training they offer, and their geographic locations.

The decree specifies the accreditation terms and conditions that apply to the medical and paramedical training courses delivered by private establishments. The CLESI-PESSOA establishments in Toulon and Béziers have the obligation, of course, to comply with these new rules.

A second legal text was published in the Official Journal on 21 June 2014², that specifies the terms and conditions for the accreditation of higher education institutions that deliver medical and paramedical training. The CLESI-PESSOA Universities were given six months to apply for accreditation by providing the required application file, failing which they would have to close down.

Continuing education

Three years only after its implementation, the new Continuing Professional Development system is already running out of money.

A complete overhaul of the CPD governance is planned that would, for health care professionals, entail among other things moving from an annual CPD obligation to a triennial obligation to maintain and improve one's competencies.

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

Mandatory insurance (public health insurance)

As announced in the report presented in Paris in April 2014, a Joint classification of medical procedures (CCAM – *Classification Commune des Actes Médicaux*), which provides an exhaustive list of procedures, and sets the prices for dental procedures covered by the national health fund (Assurance maladie – compulsory insurance) while maintaining the possibility to freely set the prices of those which are not covered, effectively came into force on 1st November 2014. To date, 98.8% of all general dental practitioners use it, while orthodontists are still excluded.

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

The ADF 2015 Annual Dental Meeting, presided over by Roland L'Herron, will be held from Tuesday 24 until Saturday 28 November 2015 at the Palais des Congrès de Paris, Porte Maillot, and will focus this year on the "**Digital R-evolution**" ("*R-évolution numérique*").

One of the great strengths of this Meeting is to combine in one single venue a scientific programme, including over one hundred sessions – several of which meet the compulsory professional development requirements – and 500 speakers, and an international exhibition that brings together 400 exhibitors over 22,000 sq. m.

In 2014, 26 sessions out of the 128 scheduled in the Conference were either given in or translated into English, thus increasing further still the international dimension of the event. The exhibition attracted 30.000 visitors – including 15.000 dentists – from 117 different countries. And the UAE

¹ Décret n° 2014-635 du 18 juin 2014 relatif aux établissements d'enseignement supérieur privés d'intérêt général et au comité consultatif pour l'enseignement supérieur privé

² Arrêté (ministerial order) du 27 mai 2014 relatif aux modalités de l'agrément prévu à l'article L. 731-6-1 du code de l'éducation pour les formations de médecine, de pharmacie, d'odontologie, de maïeutique et les formations paramédicales dispensées au sein d'un établissement d'enseignement supérieur privé

International Dental Conference & Arab Dental Exhibition/AEEDC Dubai joined the family of international partners that attend the ADF Meeting.

Publications

The French Dental Association published in June 2014 an **institutional brochure** in French and English, which details the full range of the association's activities. The brochure, entitled "The ADF, helping the Dental Profession move forward" ("*L'Association dentaire française au coeur des évolutions*") can be downloaded in English here:

http://www.adf.asso.fr/images/pdf/institutionnel/ADF_About-the-French-Dental-Association_June-2014.pdf

Three guides in the series *Les Dossiers de l'ADF* were also published or republished, on the following topics:

- Root Canal Obturation
- Root Canal Preparation
- Positive List of Dental Disinfectants / New edition 2014

***Sauvons nos dents* – the Save our Teeth campaign**

On the occasion of the examination of the draft health law mentioned earlier, the French regulating body for dentistry (*Conseil National de l'Ordre*), with the support of all French dentists, launched the **Save Our Teeth ("*Sauvons nos dents*") campaign** in an endeavour to communicate with the public and to give a clearer understanding of the workings of the profession. Starting on 15 March, and for many weeks after, the dental profession will be speaking loud and clear in the national and regional dailies, in magazines, on social networks, and on the premier French TV channel TF1.

Among other actions, dentists opened their practices on Sunday 12 April for a day of dialogue and exchange, to answer their patients' questions about their profession.

More prevention, fair prices for dental care, properly reimbursed treatments, the respect of professional independence, the possibility for patients to choose their dentists, are but a few of the many battles fought by the *Ordre* and its 41.000 registered dentists. For more information, visit the website set up especially for the campaign: www.sauvonsnosdents.com.

World Oral Health Day (WOHD), 20 March 2015

In addition to the actions conducted every day all throughout the year, the WOHD is an opportunity for the dental profession, through the French Union for Oral Health (UFSBD), a member association of the French Dental Association, to speak to the public via the media. This year, the communication campaign focused on five preconceived ideas on oral health:

- dental treatments are expensive
- going to the dentist hurts
- tooth decay is unavoidable
- Oral health has no link whatsoever with overall health
- There's no point in treating milk teeth as they're going to fall out anyway

Of course, the ADF also communicated on the 2015 WOHD "Smile for Life" campaign.