

Regional European Organisation of the FDI
NATIONAL REPORT
Tbilisi, Georgia
24 – 25 April 2015

POLAND - Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists

I. Changes in the association and its organisation.

The Polish National Committee for ERO-FDI is formed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists and the Polish Dental Society.

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists is the main professional organization in Poland. It is the organizational body of the professional self-government of physicians and dental practitioners who are associated in the chambers with equal status. Membership is mandatory. Every physician and every dental practitioner who holds the right to practice the profession in Poland is a member of the chamber by virtue of the law. There are 23 Regional Chambers and a separate chamber of military physicians and dentists. The Polish Supreme Chamber of Physicians and Dentists coordinates the work of regional chambers.

The main activities of the chambers include:

- Awarding the right to practice as a physician or dentist and keeping the register of physicians and dentists.
- Co-operating in matters of professional specialization and continuing professional development
- Information centres for doctors and dentists
- Supervising the professional conduct (acting as medical courts imposing disciplinary sanctions)
- Setting principles of professional ethics
- Representing and protecting the professions
- Expressing opinions on draft legislation and health issues

2014 marked the **25th anniversary of re-establishment of the chambers of physicians and dental practitioners in Poland** – organizations of the joint professional self-government that are vested with competence to supervise the exercise of the professions in the public interest.

The official celebration took place in Warsaw on 5 – 6 December. It was attended by numerous guests, including representatives of national and international organizations of physicians and dentists.

Among the guests who joined Polish doctors on these important days was the ERO-FDI President, the Presidents of FDI, CED, WMA, UEMS, CPME, and colleagues

representing dental and medical chambers from the neighbouring countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Lithuania and Slovakia.

On 5 December our guests visited the Polish Parliament for a meeting with the state authorities hosted by the Vice-Marshall of the Senate, who himself is a practicing medical doctor. An interesting discussion that took place focused on the involvement of professional organizations in the democratic lawmaking process. Participants also talked about the need for healthcare professionals to personally engage in politics in order to bring their expertise and experience.

The main events were held on 6 December and included a celebratory gathering of representatives of the professional self-government and invited guests as well as a gala concert at the National Theatre.

In their addresses our guests underlined that the anniversary of the professional chambers is in line with the celebrations of regaining democracy 25 years ago in Poland and other Central and East European countries – independent professional organizations are a part of democratic society.

In September 2014 a decision has been taken to **raise the membership fee** for the chambers. On this basis, since January 2015 the principal amount that is paid monthly by members of the chambers is 60 PLN (appr. 15 EUR) – the former amount was 40 PLN and has not been subject to a change for a number of years, despite the rate of inflation and growing scope of the chambers' activities, especially in relation to organization of continuing education events, free of charge for the members.

The Polish Dental Society is a scientific association, the membership in the Society is voluntary. The Chamber and Society cooperate in many fields.

There are also other, numerous dental scientific societies in Poland, acting within the specific fields of dentistry.

II. Trends and developments

- in professional politics

Transposition of the revised directive on recognition of professional qualifications.

The chamber is involved in legislative works aimed at transposition of the new regulations amending directive 2005/36/WE. The Chamber cooperates closely with the Ministry of Health in drafting relevant provisions with regard to our professions.

Special attention is paid to proper transposition of the alert mechanism – in order to provide other Member States with timely information at the same time observing the rights of individual professionals. Also the issue of language testing is discussed and the initial proposal is to require each dental practitioner who has completed studies in another language than Polish to take a language examination organized by the Supreme Chamber.

- in health politics

The directive on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare.

The transposition of the directive 2011/24/EU has been – for no official reason – delayed in Poland by over 1 year.

The transposition eventually entered into force on 15 November 2014 (the deadline set by the directive was 25 October 2013).

As expected, Polish government has taken the option to adopt all the measures allowed by the directive to limit the application of the rules on reimbursement for cross-border healthcare, especially the prior authorisation rule in relation to some treatments (hospital care, highly specialised procedures).

Fiscal cash registers in dental practices

Since January 2015 every dental practitioner in individual practice will have to use a fiscal cash register when providing dental services outside the scope of the general health insurance (i.e. when the service is paid by the patient).

In previous years practitioners not exceeding a specified amount of income were exempted from this obligation. Introduction of a general requirement to use fiscal cash registers in dental practices raised some doubts in the context of professional secrecy – since the tax authorities require a service to be described on the fiscal receipt in a very detailed way (a term “dental service” is too broad in their opinion).

Electronic dental records

On 1 August 2014 medical and dental care providers were to be required to maintain medical records in electronic format (paper records were to be allowed only as an additional method). However, due to many opinions that the system is not yet properly developed, the Ministry of Health postponed this obligation to August 2017, thus giving more time healthcare providers and IT companies to make adequate preparations. The Chamber was in favour of this decision.

Use of ionising radiation in dentistry.

The Chamber has been continuing its efforts to convince the Minister of Health that there is a need to amend the conditions of using the ionising radiation in dentistry.

Since long, dentists in Poland have a negative opinion on the regulations that apply to dentistry, because the dental radiological equipment is treated – especially in regard to maintenance and testing of the equipment - almost in the same way as radiological equipment used for other medical purposes, even though dental radiographs pose much lower risk.

The Chamber has indicated a list of issues that should be changed in order to facilitate the work of dentists, without endangering the safety of both patients and dental staff, especially: to limit the scope of tests applicable to dental radiographs and to allow the use of movable dental radiographs. The Chamber managed to get

the attention of the Ministry and hopes that the regulation will eventually be amended in accordance with the proposals of the dental profession.

- in educational politics

At the end of 2014 changes regarding the admission to specialist training were introduced limiting the possibility to change the field of specialization.

The Chamber is continuing its efforts to provide more incentives for dentists in individual and group practices to apply for accreditation regarding specialist training. It is essential in order to raise the number of approved specialist training posts in different fields (in Poland there are 7 formally recognized dental specialties).

The Supreme Chamber is currently carrying out two EU co-funded projects aimed at training courses for physicians and dentists – especially young colleagues. These training focus on the so called soft competences (or soft skills) i.e. behavioural competences like communication with patients, also legal knowledge – trainings are conducted by psychologists, lawyers.

- in the insurance system

No major changes in the reporting period. Representatives of the Chamber continued their engagement in negotiations with the National Health Fund.

III. Further information.

Interview with the FDI President in Chamber's monthly journal

Dr Tin Chun Wong, FDI President, gave an extensive interview during her visit in Warsaw on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of re-establishment of the chambers which was published in the Chamber's monthly journal "Gazeta Lekarska".

World Oral Health Day in 2015

As in previous years the World Oral Health Day on 20 March 2015 was an occasion for Polish dentists to draw the public attention to the significance of oral health and the role of dental practitioners within primary healthcare.

Anna Lella
Anna Śpiątek
Marek Szewczyński
stomatologia@hipokrates.org



The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists
00-764 Warsaw, Sobieskiego Street 110

POLAND

www.nil.org.pl

www.stomatologia.nil.org.pl