

**ERO Plenary session
24th/25th April 2015,
COURTYARD MARRIOTT TBILISI, Georgia**

MINUTES

A Welcome

A.1 ERO-President

The ERO President welcomes all those present in Tbilisi and especially the large delegation of FDI, consisting of Tin Chun Wong, President; Patrick Hescot, President Elect FDI and former president of the ERO; Kathryn Kell, Treasurer; Nermin Yamalik, Edoardo Cavallé, councilors and Gerhard Seeberger speaker and former ERO President; Michèle Aerden, former FDI President and Wolfgang Doneus, CED President.

Apologies have reached us from Orlando Monteiro da Silva, Nikolay Sharkov and Bedros Yavru-Sakuk and from the delegations of the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Netherlands and Slovakia.

It's nice to have you all here!

Philippe Rusca reminds us of the tragedy which has befallen the Armenian people; today exactly 100 years ago. Unfortunately, history repeats itself again and again. Currently reach us at short intervals tragic pictures from the Mediterranean region.

Anna Spialek, Itzhak Chen and Bartolomeo Griffa are appointed scrutineers.

A.2 Greetings of the president of the Georgian Stomatological Association

Vladimer Margvelashvili welcomes all guests in Georgia. (You can find his welcoming words on the ERO Website <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

The president of the Georgian Stomatological Association, Ketevan Gogilashvili, welcomes in turn the participants of this General Assembly. Georgia is a beautiful and sunny country, though perhaps the first meteorological impression might have been wrong. Today, some members of the board of the local Dental Association are present. As a special welcome gift she presents the FDI President, TC Wong, a modern painting of a Georgian artist. She is proud to have so many distinguished guests here and wishes everybody a successful meeting.

B Presentation by the Georgian Stomatological Association The situation of dental care in Georgia (epidemiology, workforce)

Vladimer Margvelashvili gives an outline of the current situation of dental care in Georgia. (See his presentation on <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>.)

Philippe Rusca would like to know what the priorities in the field of dentistry in Georgia are. This, declares Vladimer Margvelashvili, is clearly prevention and education. Previously epidemiological data was missing. Today it is available and they now want to intensify the education/training. Furthermore it surprises that there are only 97 specialists in orthodontics. That's very little. Is there no demand for this type of therapy, asks Michael Frank. In fact, it is so that Georgian children do not like to have teeth corrections. 10 years ago there were only 26 orthodontists; we have gained a lot in recent years; there is even a corresponding 2-year training program, replies Vladimer Margvelashvili. Philippe Rusca thanks him for the presentation.

C Standard agenda of the business meeting

C.1 Roll call and establishment of the quorum

Hans Schrangl does the roll call. 45 delegates are present. The quorum is thus given.

C.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is approved unanimously and without amendment.

C.3 Approval of the minutes of New Delhi

Roland L'Herron wants (in the French version at point 7 / Line 5) the word "établissement" have replaced by "environnement". With this correction, the minutes of the General Assembly of New Delhi are unanimously approved.

C.4 Reports of the Board

Philippe Rusca: Since Paris, the Board met 5 times. The contact and information between the board members works well. Last year we realized the "50 years of ERO" anniversary publication and a new logo was introduced. In addition, we can welcome two new members in the ERO: Albania and Belarus. Unfortunately, no representatives of these countries are present today. In connection with the activities of the working group "relations between the private practitioners and universities" we are in contact with the ADEE (Association for Dental Education in Europe). There are common interests concerning the education/training. We made contact as well with the EDSA (European Dental Students' Association). This because in the working group "Liberal Dental Practice" new forms of practices and new structures in our profession are discussed and we are interested in the opinion of young dentists. Our young colleagues should be involved in the working groups, so that they can participate in developing the future. Overlooking the elections in New Delhi, the President notes with satisfaction that we are well represented in the FDI committees. He thanks the Chairman of the Working Group for their work; it is not always easy to lead these groups. He also thanks the members of the working groups for their availability to collaborate. A good cooperation is very important. Philippe Rusca asks to let the secretariat know all changes in e-mail addresses immediately so that the exchange of information which is carried out exclusively by electronic means, is ensured. He also thanks the members of the board - it's a good group that works well together. We do not always agree, but that is okay. But we all go in the same direction and hope that we make a work which the delegates are satisfied of. He also thanks Monika Lang, which operates in the background at the secretariat since 2004.

C.5 Finances

5.1 Settlement of accounts 2014

Michael Frank explains balance and profit and loss account. For the first time contributions to the working groups were awarded (see item 3 of the income statement). In this point large savings could be made compared to the budget. However, the Plenary Session in Paris - it was a special and very successful event - cost significantly more than a regular General Assembly. The entire amount has been entered in the normal accounts and the actually proposed provisions for this event remained largely untouched. The board provides € 25,000 for organizing the plenary session. Should the organizing member association realize that this amount would be exceeded, the board must be contacted.

The result 2014 shows a loss of a bit more than 2000 €. Michael Frank notes with satisfaction that we have more or less got along with what we had planned.

Michèle Aerden is pleased that the accounts are so well done and thanks for the work. She wants to know which expenses are recorded under item 8 and 10. The first one, explains Michael Frank, is the new logo and overnight stays for guests of honour in Paris; the second are expenses for the website. This was redesigned and turned out to be quite nice. He adds that the Board is open for suggestions and requests in connection with the website.

Peter Engel thanks for the excellent work. He wants to know if now all outstanding membership fees are paid. Most of them are paid, confirms the treasurer. With two member states we are still in negotiations and we hope they will lead to a successful conclusion. Philippe Rusca is pleased that the majority of member associations paid their dues on time.

Why is there a difference (budget / accounts 2014) of 10% in membership fees, asks Jörg Krainhöfner. Changing GNI indices and varying numbers of members are responsible, explains the treasurer. In order to be fair about membership fees and even if this in particular cases is likely to be difficult, he asks the member associations to specify the number of members correctly and realistically.

The auditor, Enrico Lai, reads out his report. He examined the financial statements and the respective documents; they comply with the general accounting principles and are performed correctly. He recommends the adoption of the accounts.

Philippe Rusca thanks him for his work and proceeds to voting on the accounts 2014. These are approved unanimously.

5.2 Outstanding fees

Philipp Rusca refers to the previous discussion.

5.3 Budget 2015

Michael Frank explains the budget. Certain expenditures from the previous year in connection with the 50th anniversary and the special General Assembly fall away for 2015. For the plenary session a fixed sum is, as already noted, stipulated. Otherwise, no special expenses are planned. There are no questions asked and the budget, which provides for a revenue surplus of almost € 10,000, is accepted with no votes against. Philippe Rusca thanks the Treasurer for his work.

Michael Frank for his part thanks for the confidence. His thanks go also to the secretariat, with which, the cooperation works perfectly.

C.6 Working groups

6.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach presents what the working group has developed on this topic so far (report see on <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

An adaptation of our practice structures is certainly necessary. We cannot step up against the progress. How is this handled in the different countries? Philippe Rusca thinks the ERO may give an impulse (directive), to distance ourselves from the purely commercial institutions where we find overtreatment every day. Ernst Jürgen Otterbach answers Taner Yücels question about a more detailed description of these new forms of dental practice. Nowadays, the possibilities for cooperation are very different. The so-called work-life balance and a higher proportion of women have an increasing influence on our profession. Younger dentists are considering individual practices as being rather too risky. He would like to know what it looks like in other countries.

Beat Wäckerle: In Switzerland we are right in the middle of it. We have experienced a tsunami of foreign dentists. Often it is only a matter of mercantile things. The other problem is the feminization. 70% of graduates in dentistry are women. But there are countries that have a lot of experience with this development (in northern Europe, for example). One should inquire there. Finding a consensus on dealing with new practice structures in the large region of ERO, however, could be difficult.

Is feminization actually a problem? Boris Milanov does not understand this at all and Vesna Barac-Furtinger joins him. There are many female dentists in the world and yet everything is functioning normally. It is not a problem, but a fact, says Beat Wäckerle, but in countries where previously mostly men have practiced, you will need to make adjustments. Michael Frank: women want to bring their profession in line with their personal lives. The feminization has simply accelerated structural changes. Do you have this problem also and how do you solve it? Men want as well to take part in the development of their children and have their private lives, notices Dophinan Hammer. If we want to achieve the optimum for our patients despite of a changing society, we need to organize ourselves. Ralf Wagner finds that this is not primarily a man-woman question, but a question of tradition. Our society needs to reorient. In countries where women have already worked very much independently, this should be easier. Independence is not a gender issue. We must consider how we can create the conditions to support the endeavours of our young generation for good professional practice. According to Peter Engel three complexes can be distinguished: The internal structure of the profession, the external structure and migration trends. For the first point: Cost pressure in the practices will no longer allow to set up a practice and then to stay away half a year. Job sharing can help. If there are more dentists in a practice, it also needs more patients. Many young people today want to stay longer in the employment relationship than this was the case before. We must be able to make it work. This is something to which the member associations must give some thoughts and try to meet the youth's request. External structures: we have a vying healthcare market. People appear from outside the profession and want to make money. We must not degenerate into a discount store. We as national organizations have to pay attention how the structures change and do our best to keep the matter in hand. The third issue (migration tendency) is - to be considered by the European philosophy in the first place - positive, but also has its negative aspects. Like when there are people that - due to the monetary situation - in the morning start to go work abroad and in the evening return to their own country. We have to keep an eye on this so that we meet our responsibilities and do not become puppets of differently oriented institutions.

Mare Saag recalls an article which has been published many years (30 years) ago in the American Journal of Dentistry and which asked whether a woman is at all able to practice dentistry. That was a political discussion and the answer was: yes, in individual cases, it could be possible as a children's dentist. What we are discussing today, is more a problem of planning of health services as one of the feminization; this also applies to the migration trend. We have 80% women in dentistry. The number of men has not decreased, but increased. Georgios Tsiogas, Michèle Aerden and Philippe Rusca see big problems in the fact that the commercial pressure on both the young and the experienced dentists is constantly increasing. For large practices this often provides a tendency to over-treat for economic reasons and that is not for the benefit of patients. The working group should make a clear statement in this direction.

We have now felt the pulse and we will also include the opinion of the Dental Students' Association in our statement, says Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach, and concludes this agenda item.

6.2 Relations between dental practitioners and universities

Nermim Yamalik presents the report on the activities of this working group. Three projects are presented: Evidence-based dentistry, clinical guidelines for dental practice and collaboration with ADEE (presentation see <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

Philippe Rusca and Jürgen Fedderwitz thank for the great work. How important are according to the working group these guidelines for the various countries? National needs must be taken into account in the preparation of guidelines. Jürgen Fedderwitz fears that we create a template for a standardization, if we confine only to a small number of guidelines. Is it not a nearly impossible task? Today many studies can be found on one topic on the internet, but then only a small number that are truly comparable remain in the end. At a European level, should we not at least initially agree on the basis for a study design in order to reach comparable results? Much of what we see today in guidelines, is the result of a specific selection. He sees a danger that with this particular selection a general validity is achieved and fears so in the end circumcision of science. The working group does not operate in this sense, argues Philippe Rusca. It's actually about giving us a tool.

Nermin Yamalik confirms: the guidelines do not want to be restrictive, but to support us as practitioners. They should be an aid to which the colleagues can access in case of need. We are opposed to any standardization or reduction of the treatment plan. In addition to this draft of guidelines a questionnaire regarding the benefits, application, update, etc. will now be distributed to the member associations. She will collect the data and submit them again.

6.3 Integration

Elena Iwanova reports on the October meeting of her working group in Yerevan, the recent activities of the group (i.e. survey of the problems of the Eastern European member states) as well as on the results of today's meeting, where the current issues have been fixed. Certain countries need new standards in education and training. The next meeting will be held together with the working group "Continuous medical education in dentistry". We have now found out what the needs are in the other Eastern European countries, and there we would like to continue our work. Next year, the working group will meet in Bosnia.

The Board welcomes and promotes a good relationship of the working group "Integration" with the other working groups. Here indeed lays the real purpose of integration, emphasizes Philippe Rusca.

6.4 Prevention

Philippe Rusca informs that Denis Bourgeois unfortunately was unable to make his trip to Georgia due to a strike in Belgium and is therefore not present. The members of the group will meet briefly to discuss the future of the Working Group.

6.5 Quality in dentistry

With reference to the presentation of Nermin Yamalik, it is not enough to speak of quality work, we must also be able to prove it, says Roland L'Herron. He looks at the results of the working group meeting of the end of February. Quality has to do with security; Quality is an attitude; Quality also plays an important role in the treatment environment. General principles should be established and recommendations made, which apply to all practices. He is interested to hear, what initiatives the dentists have undertaken in the various associations to improve the quality of care even more. As chairman of this group, he made the proposal to base on a work of the ADF for the time being. He goes to individual points of the paper, which can be found on the website (<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/> reports). On August 26, the next meeting of the working group will be held.

Philippe Rusca clarifies that it is not about going to issue any standards. Only simple, elementary things shall be presented. It is then up to each member state to decide if these documents are to be implemented. The president is pleased that this working group has now received a guide and that the members participate.

6.6 Continuing medical education in dentistry

Hande Sar Sancakli presents the results of the survey conducted between June 2014 and March 2015 (<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>). More than 2200 responses have been received. She emphasizes the importance of cooperation between the medical and dental associations. In the end, there is a close link between the general and oral health. She thanks all those who participated in the survey and also the members of their working group.

There is a lot of work in it, the president says appreciatively. There are no questions.

6.7 Dental Team

The profession of the dental hygienist presents itself very differently in the various countries of the ERO, starts Philippe Rusca into this subject. The spectrum ranges from non-existent to the independent practice. The working group and its chairman have done a great job. The president emphasized in his introduction how important it is that we dentists, keep the training of the DH in our own hands and can also determine their assignment within the dental team.

Edoardo Cavallé gives a brief update on the work of his group (see <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>). Training profiles for the dental chairside assistant, the dental prevention assistant and the dental hygienist have been worked out, always with the objective to keep this training in our care

and have it tailored to our profession (without Bologna process and undergraduate diplomas). He emphasizes once again the motto: Delegation yes/substitution no. This profile is to serve those who do not yet have it. He reads the statement, which was sent to all NDAs before the meeting.

It was not easy to create this profile, and he thanks the members of his working group for the good and constructive cooperation.

Discussion – In Roland L'Herron eyes the whole thing is too fast and too far-fetched. He finds that it still a matter of substitution. In addition, the DH should not provide invasive, surgical or periodontal services.

Edoardo Cavallé repeats that the text was sent previous to this assembly. He stresses that no one is forced to use this DH-profile. The text contains common ground, but could of course be adapted at will. It was important for the working group to keep the control over the education of DH in the hands of the dentists.

Just because he was also of the opinion that even in France one cannot escape this discussion, firm limits must be set, finds Roland L'Herron. The boundaries are not of those who have gone too far.

They had discussed long before they tackled this issue, notes Stefaan Hanson. He finds the French delegation is making a lot of unnecessary thoughts. In the introduction stands a clear "delegation yes, substitution no". They do not want to rewrite the story for the countries which already have a DH profile. And for the others there is the profile of the DPA. The profile of the DH clearly states, that she is not allowed to work independently, but can only operate under the responsibility and on prescription of the dentist.

There follows a discussion about a change in textual nature. Ralf Wagner explains: The resolution text was not changed per se. The "and" (Perform non-surgical ~~and~~ periodontal therapies under the supervision of the dentist) had been removed at the request of the French delegation.

In Switzerland, the profession of DH exists since 35 years, notices Beat Wäckerle. We made good experiences as long as we have kept the training and deployment of the DH in our hands. However, the enormous number of hours of training in Switzerland should be adjusted. This resolution will help.

Now starts a discussion about whether the "learning outcomes" are part of the resolution or not. On the part of the French delegation, it is considered that the DH in accordance with the "learning outcomes" can do much more than she is authorized to do by the text of the resolution. Finally, it is determined that the two documents belong together, because they relate to each other. Since the coherence of the two papers is very important for the French delegation, Stefaan Hanson proposal to check this in a short session during the break is very well accepted. The vote is therefore postponed until after the break.

Then Edoardo Cavallé presents the changes in the "learning outcomes". On page 9, the heading "Restorative Dentistry" is deleted. Immediately after this the following change is made: Be competent at providing preventive oral care for the individual patient ~~who presents with dental caries, periodontal disease and tooth wear~~. Thus, the document is now acceptable to the French delegation. Another change then at the end of page 9: "Be competent at supragingival and subgingival scaling ~~and root debridement, using both powered and manual instrumentation, and in stain removal and prophylaxis~~".

It is again emphasized that the annexes can be amended and may be adapted according to the legislation of the individual Member States.

Philippe Rusca finally asks the delegates to vote on the entire package (resolution plus learning outcomes) in the proposed modified form.

It is adopted without any dissenting votes.

Edoardo Cavallé thanks for the approval and announces the next topic, the dental technician. The next meeting of the Working Group will take place in Sicily on 17 October.

Philippe Rusca presents another document "ERO resolution on the condition of possible delegation within the dental team" (<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>). This has been sent to the member organizations a few days ago. There is no request to speak. The President can also have a vote on this resolution. The document is adopted without dissenting vote.

C.7 FDI

We have the privilege today to have the President of the FDI among us. Philippe Rusca gives her the floor. She informs about the activities of FDI and reports on the positive state of the finances, the staff situation in the headquarters, old and new partnerships, etc. Her presentation is on (<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

Two candidates for the position of „President-elect“ of the FDI get the floor. Kathryn Kell, treasurer of FDI and ERO-board member Taner Yücel present themselves. Their presentations can be found on (<http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

There are also other candidates from the ERO region which apply for a (re) –election in a FDI Commission. These are: Paulo Melo Public Health Committee, Bedros Yavru-Sakuk Dental Practice Committee, Duygu Ilhan Communication and Member Support Committee, Vladimer Margvelashvili Dental Practice Committee, Sophie Darteville Public Health Committee. The President asks the member associations, to announce its candidates for FDI elections to the ERO board as soon as possible so that we can support them.

C.8 Member countries – National reports and discussion

Hans Schrangl has received 19 national reports. He presents a brief summary of changes and innovations in the national member associations (see <http://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/tbilisi-2015/reports>).

Philippe Rusca invites all member associations which have not sent their national report to do so the next time. It would be nice to have the latest information of everybody next year.

C.9 Next meetings

The next plenary session will take place on 23rd September 2015 in the afternoon in Bangkok. The plenary session in spring 2016 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan (29th/30th April). Nominations are still being sought for the spring 2017 plenary session.

Beat Wäckerle takes the floor and announces that the Swiss Dental Association would be honoured to host this plenary session. He must, however, still ask his board. Possible dates may be the 21 / 22nd or 28 / 29th April 2017.

C.10 Miscellaneous

No requests to speak.

D Close of the meeting - Adjournment

Philippe Rusca thanks the local organizers for the excellent meeting, the president of the Georgian Dental Association for the lovely gift, delegates and alternate delegates for attending the event and the board members, the translators and all other helpers for their outstanding work. He wishes all a safe journey home.

Vladimer Margvelashvili, on his turn thanks everybody and the president adjourns the General Assembly at 11.45.

The president:

Dr. Philippe Rusca

For the minutes:

Monika Lang