



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO-Plenary Session
29th/30th April, 2010, Yerevan, Armenia
The Marriott Armenia Yerevan Hotel

Minutes

A Welcome

A.1-3 ERO-President / President of ADA / Greetings of Guests

Patrick Hescot welcomes all participants in Yerevan. A special welcome goes to the official representatives of Armenia, the President and the President-elect of FDI. He thanks again for the invitation to the dinner with the Prime Minister of Armenia and assures that everybody is very proud to be here for this plenary session.

The opening of the plenary session in Yerevan is honoured by two representatives of the Armenian government. The president of the government party Mr. Gagik Tsarukyan greets the participants and hopes that the stay in Armenia will be profitable for all participants. Mr. Harutyun Kushyan, Armenian health minister, expresses his great pleasure to welcome the representatives from Europe and VIPs from FDI and wishes everybody success. Ashot Gevorgyan, president of the Armenian Dental Association, gives a very emotionated speech and thanks the prime minister and the Armenian government representatives for their presence here and at the dinner of yesterday. In his presentation of the Armenian Dental Association, which was founded only 15 years ago and counts about 5 to 6000 dentists, he refers to the problems in the education of dentists in Armenia. There are far too many faculties and the quality of education is not at its best.

C Standard agenda of the business meeting

C.1 Roll call

1.1 Establishment of the quorum

Philippe Rusca welcomes all delegates present. A couple of days ago he was quite worried if the ash-cloud would allow this meeting; so he is glad to see them all here. 49 out of 78 delegates are present; the quorum is thus achieved. He makes the roll call. Apologies arrived from Denmark, Estonia, Luxembourg, Slovakia and Great Britain.

1.2 ERO members

Estonia has rejoined the family of ERO. Welcome back!

C.2 Approval of the agenda

Patrick Hescot proposes a change of the agenda. Since Roberto Vianna must leave early, point C. 9 FDI will be treated right after the reports of the board. No-one opposes.



C.3 Approval of the minutes of Singapore

There are no changes in the minutes of the plenary session of Singapore. It is adopted unanimously.

C.4 Reports of the Board

4.1 President / FDI-Council

The mandate of this board is coming to an end. We made great efforts to improve the efficiency of our work. Patrick Hescot is very happy that Great Britain, the Netherlands and Estonia have rejoined ERO. Now there are only some of the Scandinavian countries to be convinced of coming back. This will be one of the tasks of the new president.

It has always been his intention to make the board members work and they worked good and hard. He picks up some of the main points, like prevention / early detection of oral cancer. He repeats his credo that the dentist is not only the “repairman”; but has a very important role in the society. Utmost importance will have to be given the accurate positioning of our profession. The president has had a lot of opportunities to talk about it to many people. The goal is not primarily to unify, because Europe's wealth is its diversity. There exist different ways and visions to fulfil a task and there will be various duties that will be important in the future, such as the work of the dental team, the definition and handling of quality, the collaboration with assurances and last but not least the problem of the gap between university training and the professional reality afterwards. The work of Anna Lella's group is very important, because the gap should not become bigger than it already is. There we have a great responsibility. It must be our aim that our profession will keep its occupational status in the future. The liberal practice is another problem not to be lost out of sight. Most of the dentists are still practicing independently; this is an advantage that - of course - has also its inconveniences. Of course the assurances tend to offer the cheapest possible dental treatments, which often are contradictory to quality standards.

ERO is the biggest regional organisation of FDI. ERO sends many representatives to FDI committees. It is important that ERO remains strongly represented in FDI. His successor will continue in this direction. The president of FDI, Roberto Vianna, is here today and this will give the delegates the opportunity to come up with questions, to have a discussion.

Since this is Patrick Hescot's last report as ERO president, he takes the opportunity to express his thanks to the members of the board and to all persons present. It has been a great pleasure for him to work for and to preside this organisation. He closes his speech with the words “merci de tout mon coeur”.

4.2 President-elect

Gerhard Seeberger thanks Patrick Hescot in a short speech for his leadership: He has been a guide for all and has encouraged me for my work in ERO. He understood to promote our capacities, dealt with topics like prevention, quality, etc. and was very much dedicated to strengthen the profession, to construct a voice of the dental profession that can and will be of great use in our area.

4.3 Secretary general

Philippe Rusca will not repeat his report, which has been published on the ERO website. Instead he refers to a relevant subject which has been discussed in yesterday's board meeting. As everybody knows, ERO has no officially registered office. It is the same situation as has been in the CED. So he has contacted the authorities of the canton of Geneva in order to check the possibility of being registered there as a non-profit-organisation. This would entail a small revision of the statutes. According to the requirements of the Geneva authorities ERO must have a treasurer and two auditors (to be assigned among the delegates) and we would have to send a resume of the minutes of the plenary session to the canton of Geneva. For the time being, this all is in a status of discussion, but we need the consent of the delegates to be able to continue the preliminary clarifications. The plan is as follows: approval today, then revision of the statutes in Salvador and setting them into force on 1st January 2011. This will



implement additional elections in 2011. It goes without saying that the changes in the constitutions will be submitted to the delegates well in advance.

Stefaan Hanson asks for some more information about the fundamental reason for this new structure.

As it is known, recently the pressure on the fiscal system has considerably augmented in Switzerland. Up to know, ERO did not pay any taxes and has no bank account of its own (this is administered by the Swiss Dental Association). In order to be pro-active and avoid certain problems, the board would like to put things in the right direction.

Michael Frank thinks this attempt of the board is legitimate and favours the idea of giving it the requested approval, especially since the plenary will have the opportunity to discuss the proposals regarding the revision of the constitution.

Are we aware that with this revision of the constitution, ERO will forever be tied to Switzerland, asks Karl-Anton Rezac. ERO is a regional organisation of the FDI, replies Patrick Hescot, and FDI's legal basis is in Geneva. Therefore it is only logical to establish the registered office of ERO in Geneva as well. He assures the delegates, that the revised statutes will only be submitted to the cantonal authorities, if approved by the plenary session. All we did so far was preparatory work and the board now would like to get green light to continue, adds Philippe Rusca.

The board's proposal is accepted unanimously.

4.4 Members of the Board

Bartolomeo Griffa has reached the end of his mandate. Thourough reflections have led him to the conclusion to refrain from representing himself again as member of the board. There have never been any differences between him and the other board members and he always has agreed with the decisions of the board; but he is of the opinion that ERO having 40 member associations there should not be two of the same country in a board of five persons. So he leaves his chair to someone from another country. He expresses his gratitude towards the members of the board and the delegates for their support during the last three years.

Vladimir Sadvosky thanks the Armenian colleagues for the perfect organisation of this event. Basic and continuing education in the Eastern countries have been among his most important concerns during this mandate. Some things have improved, but many are still complicated in the countries of Eastern Europe. He looks as well back on one of his personal projects which is the PanEuropean Congress. There have been 3 events so far and he is glad, that the board has decided to continue. He thanks his colleagues from the board and the delegates for the support and hopes that the excellent cooperation will go on.

C.5 Member countries

5.1 National reports

Gerhard Seeberger comments the 14 national reports that were sent to the secretariat ahead of this plenary session. He has picked out some interesting points and asks some questions.

Armenia seems to have a plethora of dentists. How do they handle that? Ashot Gevorgyan admits that this is a really big issue for his country. Any citizen can get a licence and establish a dental clinic. Some time ago they had 36 dental schools; now there are 16 left, which still is too much. It looks like everybody can study dental medicine, as long as he pays his student fees.

Austria - one of the points is the quality assurance project based on the principle of self-evaluation. What was the main reason for the choice of an external company and did you actively contribute to the implementation? We were obligated by law to organise a quality assurance, declares Jörg Krainhöfner, and we had the choice of doing it by ourselves or outsourcing it. The latter has been done and has



worked out satisfactorily so far. A great concern remains the competition with the lab technicians. The arguments of FDI are much appreciated.

In Croatia with the change of the law of dental practice, 3 professional classes (dentists, technicians and assistants) are now united under one roof. Further the doctor of stomatology has been changed into doctor of dental medicine.

Czech Republic – the dental chamber has a new president in the person of Pavel Chrz.

Denmark: the 2 associations tried to merge, but did not succeed.

France: the now adopted government bill will bring modernisation to the French hospital system. Then the Swine flu vaccination had more or less the same result as in other countries. People were not very keen to let themselves vaccinate and so a huge amount of vaccine doses remained unused.

In Germany the private scale of dental fees is unchanged since 1988. Gerhard Seeberger wishes his German colleagues good luck in their negotiations. As for the quality guidelines he would like to know when and by whom they will be revised. Jürgen Fedderwitz states, that a special organisation is taking care of. Quality assurance should function trans-sectoral and basic rules should be applied for every sector. It is intended to interlock the ambulant and stationary sectors. It was not possible to get a special regulation for the dentists. An external scientific institute will define quality indicators in order to avoid a monitoring where political aspects overweigh the scientific aspects.

Don't you expect difficulties in realising the objectives educational mobility, transparency and quality mentioned in connection with the Bologna-Process? There is the problem to be always confronted with this Master and Bachelor-problem, confirms Peter Engel, and financial criteria have been put in the foreground recently. They absolutely object to be put in the situation to reduce the quality of education due to the lack of financial resources. This cannot be the attitude of our profession. The fact that quality is reduced on all level is very alarming.

Israel has a new delegate for foreign affairs: Haim Neumann.

Italy – The Italian Dental Association has declared in a policy statement the opposition to any kind of dental practice jeopardizing the liberal choice of dentist. Even in Italy the call for guidelines has arisen. The problems with the lab technicians persists.

In Slovenia there is 1 dentist for 1560 inhabitants and the average age of the dentists is more than 50 years. They might run into an opposite problem than many other European countries and lack of human resources in dentistry.

Also in Spain they fight against the intrusive behaviour of the dental lab technicians. The population is informed that only dentists should take care of oral rehabilitations. Due to the economic crisis many dental surgeries were compelled to close. Spanish dentists are worried about this trend, assurance companies are purchasing some of these clinics and making them even bigger.

From Switzerland is reported that 50% of the dentists are foreign colleagues. Who is responsible for this trend? Max Flury imputes this to the free circulation of persons and the attractiveness of the working place Switzerland. This figure of 50% refers to the recognition of foreign diplomas, how many of those who asked for this recognition really are installed in Switzerland we do not know. Fact is that in areas of high population density a massiv oversupply of dentists is noted. Yet, the longterm tendency is uncertain; we do not know if there will be too many or too few dentists in Switzerland in 10 years.

In Turkey the population has increased by 6,24% in the last 5 years; the number of dentists has increased by 61,15%. In Turkey there are 28 dental faculties, which might even worsen this ratio. Will this lead to a plethora and what measures are planned? The dental association is against this trend of the government to create more and more dental faculties, declares Sarkis Sözkas. The education in these new faculties will not be the best, because they will be lacking of well trained personnel. Actually there are 3100 inhabitants for 1 dentist, but this will diminish every year.

Ukraine: The PanEuropean Congress which took place in Kiev has been a great success.

Gerhard Seeberger resumes: most countries are occupied with quality and education and in all countries there seem to be some problems in negotiating with their administrations.



C.6 Presentation of the candidates for the ERO Election

The candidates for the post of president-elect have the floor. First Vjekoslav Yerolimov and then Philippe Rusca present their candidatures. They are followed by Anna Lella who runs for secretary general and Michael Frank and Bedros Yavru-Sakuk, who are candidates for members of the board.

Finally Vladimir Sadovsky takes the floor and declares the withdrawal of his candidature for internal reasons. Working in the ERO Board and combining it with his commitment in Russia would not allow him in 2010 to focus concurrently on all projects. He has rooted his own situation with great care and attention and considered that in 2010 he has to focus on the domestic Russian problems. This, he assures, does not mean that he is indifferent to the European problems. He still is ready to contribute in the working groups and in the future perhaps will consider running again for the board, when the domestic situation will allow him to do that. He addresses words of gratitude to all supporting his nomination and apologizes not being able to hold up his candidatures. He closes his short speech by wishing luck to the other two candidates.

C.7 Working groups

7.1 Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach refers to the last meeting where they started a new topic on selective contracts of national and private health insurance companies for dental treatment. A questionnaire has been sent to all NDAs in order to have an actual overview on the situations and trends in Europe concerning this topic. About 50% answered. In nearly 86% of the countries dentists work under national health insurance systems and in about 7% countries dentists work with or under private insurance systems. Not every dentist in those countries can unrestrictedly take part in dental care of state insured patients. They need a special admission. The same situation applies for the dental care of private insured patients. The possibility of concluding selective contracts exists until now in 7 countries. Those contracts base on special agreements. Of course this questionnaire was without statistical value, but the average of the answers showed us the danger we are drifting in with selective contracts between individual dentists and assurance companies. The WG worked out a statement which he wants to discuss. (See the presentation / annexed to these minutes.)

In Greece, remarks Georgios Tsiogkas, they suffer because they have a lot of contracts. They believe in collective contracts because the partner in the negotiations is the national dental association and not the individual dentist or a group of dentists. He is not against this statement, but he deplores that it is only about selective contracts. We must think about it again, before discussing it.

Peter Engel understands this perfectly well. However, the governments as well are confronted with empty cash boxes. We will not be able to treat both today. So he pleads for treating the selective contracts now and collective contracts at the next plenary session. Selective contracts are dangerous and treat to weaken our profession

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach agrees. A triangle relation is building up because the assurances are contracting with dentists and with patients. The latter can be compelled to have treatments only by dentists that have a contract with the company the patient is assured with. We must oppose this kind of selection. This is why the statement has been elaborated. He refers to a recent case that the Israeli Dental Association has transmitted to the WG and asked for a support. There the government decided to include the dental treatment in the health service basket. This – they fear – would mean that the patient would no longer have a free choice of dentist.

All over the world insurance companies try to take over dentistry, remarks Bedros Yavru-Sakuk. However he has a problem with the wording of the statement. Should it be "the independent choice of doctor" instead of "the free choice of doctor", and also "the self employed dentist" instead of "the free employed dentist"?



Nikolai Sharkov admits that having a liberal profession is something very important for us. This statement is therefore very important. The discussion about the wording has to be carried out in the WG. The statement should start with a definition of what is liberal practice. This seems not to be very clear for the politicians. This statement is not for us, but for the stakeholders in the health business. So let us postpone the statement, distribute it to the national associations and rediscuss it in Salvador.

Edoardo Cavallé: I might to remind you all that we had a very important resolution that was voted in Istanbul by Voicu David about this issue. It could be very useful for our Israeli colleagues to use this resolution. Nevertheless, this statement is very important and should be voted.

Maybe we should discuss it again more calmly, suggests Michael Frank. There is a great number of dentists having their own practice, but on the other hand, there are many who work in a dependent position. For us is important, that the professional independence is guaranteed under all circumstances, never mind in which position the dentists works. This means that the dentist – after examination – decides together with the patient which therapy to chose. This should happen without prescriptions from a third party. The independence of the dentist is in danger, and this is why we should once more discuss the situation without any pressure.

He has no problem with the support that is planned for the Israeli.

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach appreciates this lively discussion. It was our goal to find out how the delegates think about this. The situation in France, as mentioned by Catherine Mojaïski, is particular and has been discussed in the WG as well. This statement only concerns individual and not collective contracts. Individual contracts mostly are concluded at the expense of the patient and the practitioner, because the assurance companies try to save money at their costs. Quality and the decision about the therapy are badly afflicted with this behaviour. He proposes to review the statement, submit it again to the plenary session and vote it in Salvador. However the support for the Israeli Dental Association should be given now.

Haim Neumann, of course, is of the same opinion and thanks for having had the opportunity to address their problem to the assembly.

So the support for the IDA statement is given unanimously, whereas the statement on selective contracts will be discussed again in Salvador.

7.2 ERO Relations between dental practitioners and universities

This group with Anna Lella as chairwoman, a new name and a new task has been set up at the plenary session 2009 in Rome. There is a gap between university doctrine and professional reality. The first task in order to bridge this gap was, to gather information by consulting the CED Manual and addressing a questionnaire especially to those countries that do not figure in the CED manual. Even though there were not many answers, they were able to get a general idea on the situation regarding the vocational training. In about half of the EU/EEA countries further post-qualification vocational training (VT) is required before graduates are entitled to independently practice the profession or to participate in the state oral healthcare system as independent practitioners. Other topics included in the questionnaire - the number of dental schools, number of students, length of dental studies – will be analyzed by the Working Group step by step. She calls upon the delegates to please answer the questionnaires that are addressed at the NDAs in order to help the WG to do their work. Anna Lella thanks the members of her working group for their collaboration. (See as well written report and presentation.)

Francisco Rodriguez Lozano thanks her for the report. It is very important for us, that the profession sets the standards of the education of students. The goal of the working group must be to define the competences of the dentist and according to this the universities should then set up their educational program. Anna Lella fully agrees.



7.3 ERO Enlargement

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk gives his report about the achievements of the WG. Its goal is to give guidance to improve and harmonize the level of the Eastern European Dentistry with the level of the Western countries. They were doing all the necessary efforts, as visiting them organizing congresses, deciding to have plenary sessions in Eastern countries, having Russian translation, etc. He would have appreciated to see all delegates from the Eastern countries here, so that they could participate actively in the life of ERO. He thanks all the members of his group for their hard work and support.

Vladimir Sadovsky informs about the visits in the different countries. Dentistry is mostly not in top of the priority list of those governments. There are some (the bigger countries) that have improved a lot in the last years, but often there are not enough funds for the acquisition of material. The dental associations of these countries need our support in their negotiations with the governments and administrations. Each of them need a different approach and Vladimir Sadovsky is absolutely convinced that this group must go on to exist, maybe with a different name, like “enlargement and integration”.

Georgios Tsiogkas acknowledges the work of this group. What is the benefit for his country? Shouldn't there be an enlargement of ERO as well in the Western resp. Northern part of Europe? Patrick Hescot assures him that the new board will make all efforts to bring back those countries who have resigned. ERO will as well be receptive to the wishes and needs of the Western countries.

We have to bring East and West together in order that there is only one ERO, declares Gerhard Seeberger. Our problems might be a little bit larger, a little bit more complicated to focus on than in CED. On the other hand he would like to integrate with the CED in order not to waste time and to have results which are positive for all of the parts of ERO. He affirms that it is our strong will to bring back those countries who resigned. Patrick Hescot has done a great job; Great Britain, the Netherlands and Estonia are back again. Who is a member of CED should be as well a member of / ERO.

7.4 Prevention

Denis Bourgeois looks back on 3 main subjects: Consultation on Strategies to Promote the European Day for the Prevention of Oral Health (EDPOH) 2007-2008; Involvement of the Profession in the Early Screening and Prevention of Oral Cancer 2008-2010; European Global Oral Health Indicators Development Project Phase II – WP9 Clinical Surveys Indicators 2008-2010.

We have overviewed the state of prevention and we should of course go on trying to harmonize preventive efforts in dentistry. As for the prevention of diseases of the mouth cavity and teeth we reflected on all relevant aspects but we also looked at the carcinogenic factors causing tumors in the mouth /. The most important event was the “Oral Cancer Day” on 12th June 2009. A number of declarations were adopted during this assembly. Our Spanish colleague will show in his presentation this afternoon the combined synthesis of our work done so far in particular with an emphasis on precancer carcinogenic conditions and their prevention. We should also look at the diagnosis of cancer and be able based on those results to share this knowledge with everyone.

For the second axis of our work that was assigned to us we will report in the afternoon.

The third subject is the EGOHID project. We designed in cooperation with ERO and the European commission the whole range of recommendations which are projected in the report. Many national associations were involved in this project through a whole range of workshops, expert exchanges, etc. The European commission has approved of this project and our last meeting is today. We should be able on a European level to assure the collection of all relevant information especially as this information is being gathered at a true level.

When it comes to behavioural studies as applied to the prevention in dentistry, we need to know who it is after all that is going to govern or organize and manage the collection of relevant information on the level of practitioners. If we don't do it ourselves, the insurance companies will fill in and do it in our stead. We need to be able on the level of our regional organisation to do this ourselves collect all the relevant information, process and analyse it on an adequate level. The role of the dentist is to properly acquire data and to make good use of it. Here is once again where we have to cooperate with the European



commission. We should involve university faculties as well. Finally there is a 4th item that is also a concern for us: the general medical approaches applied to dentistry. We need to carry on our work in the direction of a global medical approach in the service of the profession.

7.5 Quality Management

Gerhard Seeberger's report has been published more or less in the last newsletter. His conclusion: Quality in the dental profession, its implementation and improvement of dental practice will always depend on education, technical and communicational skills together with the capacity of critical thinking and the behaviour of quality. Quality in public services will depend on the awareness of the governments that / delivery of quality is based on time and good financial resources. The definition of dental quality and the adoptable entity of quality measures together with the evaluation of data and experiences with quality models remain the commitments for the future of the ERO WG Quality.

He thanks everybody. It is important that the work of this group will continue and he invites the delegates and the working group members to nominate a new chairperson for the WG Quality, since he is resigning from this post.

Francisco Rodriguez Lozano refers to new directives in Spain regarding the obligation of installing amalgam separators. What do the delegates think about this? What is happening in the rest of Europe?

According to Gerhard Seeberger this is a problem that should be treated in the WG. In Italy they have the same situation. As everywhere people are only reacting, when they are confronted with a new law.

In an association like ours which has such big diversities socially and economically, it would be a very ambitious attempt trying to define quality in absolute terms, remarks Roland L'Herron. Maybe we should just prescribe and recommend methods and approaches that could be adopted in order to increase quality. We should not speak about quality, but how to improve quality. Every country could apply it based on its own capacity, potential, tradition and the speed of progress and reforms. It should proceed with its own experience, this cannot happen overnight. We should perhaps be more modest in our prospects and this will make the results more realistic.

7.6 Basic + continuing education

Alex Mersel refers to the earlier reports about the work of his group and thanks the members for their collaboration. When we use the term of life long learning, the question if continuing education should be mandatory or voluntary seems to be obsolete. A study in this regard has been published in the international dental journal in 2007. The WG was looking at different questions, like what are the most important disciplines people want to be educated in, what level and form of continuing education they prefer, should there be control from outside or just a self evaluation? They found out that the preferred disciplines are not the ones we often see on the programs of the big manifestations, where usually implants come at first. Our problem is how to increase the competences and abilities in the dental education. The promotion is very difficult. Further continuing education is not to be compared with basic education. A lecturer has to know how to do it; so you have to educate the educators. We have also to educate the chairmen how to apply an innovative teaching system. The duty of our working group was to give the aegis and the support; of course in collaboration with the national dental associations. As adviser Alex Mersel was also implicated in the PanEuropean Congress. And he was also the promoter of a more efficient teamwork leading the WG. It has to be reinforced by a vice chairman and a secretary. Alex Mersel is very glad, that Sarkis Sözkcs (FDI programme manager Europe) has responded favourably regarding the harmonization in FDIs and EROs continuing education programs.

Continuing education is self-evident, states Peter Engel. However, a trend to standardization can be noticed and this is dangerous. Continuing education has something to do with motivation; the practitioner decides what kind of continuing education and what disciplines he wants to do. Alex Mersel fully agrees on this point.



7.7 Women in Dentistry

Vesna Barac-Furtinger refers to her written report which is published on the ERO website. She looks back on the results that the WG came up with over the last 5 years. It started by making the profession conscious of the feminisation of the dental profession, gathering and quantifying data. It was found out that more than 65% of the dentists are women, that there are still big differences in work conditions, earnings and position of female dentists. Since the women in this profession are not a minority anymore, it is important to improve their status and to support them in all stages of their career. The WG's next steps therefore are: to create a new questionnaire, to be more present on the web and in the media, to build up a women network and to include women as spokesperson in all ERO events.

Vesna Barac announces that there will be a woman leadership day in Salvador.

7.8 Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé reports about their reunion in Berlin. There has been an extensive discussion about the difference between Dental Nurse and Dental Chairside-Assistant. Even though the solitary dentist may be a thing of the past, the WG members agree that the dental assistant will not have autonomy and must work together with the dentist. It will be the task of the WG to define a minimum level of the profile of the dental assistant without having too much standardization. (See as well the presentation which is annexed to these minutes.)

The WG had a bit of rough start, but now Edoardo Cavallé is proud of the good and efficient work of his group. There will be more information in Salvador.

7.9 Approval of the reports of the working groups and the theme of the year 2011

All reports are approved. The theme of the year 2011 will be: Chronic diseases and dentistry.

C.8 ERO-Elections

Patrick Hescot presents the electoral committee that consists of Jörg Krainhöfner (Austria), Enrico Lai (Italy) and Vladimer Margvelashvili (Georgia). Everybody agrees with this proposal. 49 delegates entitled to vote are present. 49 voting cards are distributed in every ballot (orange = president elect / green = secretary general / blue = Yavru-Sakuk (board member) / pink = Michael Frank (board member).

The electoral committee collects the voting cards and counts them. Jörg Krainhöfner finally announces the results of the ballot:

Members of the Board: Michael Frank 42 votes out of 48 – Bedros Yavru-Sakuk 41 out of 49

General Secretary: Anna Lella 39 out of 48

President elect: 49 voting cards distributed – 36 for Philippe Rusca and 13 for Vjekoslav Yerolimov.

The latter accepts the result and congratulates his competitor.

C.9 FDI

It is a pleasure and an honour to be here, declares Roberto Vianna. He gives a report about FDI activities. The move to Geneva was very significant. FDI has found a good location very near to the airport. This transfer gave us the opportunity to unite the different companies belonging to FDI and to transfer almost all finances to Switzerland. 2009 has been a good year from the financial point of view and the council has decided in his last meeting not to raise the member's contributions. There have been some changes in the staff as well. The work of the new communication manager already shows on the FDI website, where soon a new sector dedicated to the members will be installed. He reports about a very good mid year meeting and about successful projects like for instance the global caries initiative, which is becoming more and more important. His presence here in Yerevan is proof of FDI trying to be closer to the member associations and their boards.



Wolfgang Sprekels points to a general problem regarding the work of FDI by referring to the science committee. Committee statements like the one on amalgam are very important and have been useful in Europe. However what has happened in the assembly in Singapore should not repeat itself. The statement on irrigation water, which was presented by this committee, has proved to be absolutely impracticable. It cannot be that the committee makes lengthy researches on things that are impossible to set into action in reality. There must be some sort of “filter” in the form of one or two members of the board which will check, if an idea is practicable or only good in a scientific sense. It cannot be that intelligent people waste time for things that are impossible to be applied in practice. He hopes that the FDI President and his board will take up this suggestion.

Roberto Vianna agrees with Wolfgang Sprekels and promises to continue in this direction. As for the amalgam problems he informs that FDI has become member of the UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) and that they tried in the first meeting to explain that we are the experts in these things. There is no other type of material that could replace economically and in duration amalgam. FDI is trying to do its best.

Peter Engel agrees that some of FDI's structures must be changed. What has been done 20 years ago is not valid anymore. He affirms that there are FDI bodies that are doing their work a bit in a “disconnected” way. It cannot be that the industry makes prescriptions and the science reveals defects which then have to be eliminated by the practitioners. This is why Patrick Hescot and himself have discussed the problem of irrigation water with representatives from the dental industry who are the ones to resolve this problem.

FDI structures are in a renewal process; but this takes time. A first step was the transfer to Geneva and the new transparency in FDI finances. It is not enough to say “we are good”; we must prove it. There should be more ways of income than just membership fees, sponsoring and congress. On this we must work hard. There shall be a new business plan. Maybe there will already be more information about it in Salvador.

Patrick Hescot is convinced that politics will more and more command our work and it is important that ERO's voice is heard within the FDI. Roberto Vianna hopes that everybody here will be in Salvador da Bahia as well.

C.10 Pan European Congress

C.11 Finances

11.1 Settlement of accounts 2009

Philippe Rusca announces - for the 6th time - a very pleasing result of the accounts 2009 with a benefit of a little less than 60'000 €. The fortune has nearly reached 200'000 €.

The assembly approves the account unanimously.

Fees 2010 – Philippe Rusca has - in accordance with the board - decided to propose some changes in the membership fees for 2010. We started with the coefficient of 1,23. Today - in view of the comfortable financial situation - he proposes 0,17. Further the maximum fee shall be reduced to 20'000 €; however the minimum fee of 250 € remains unchanged.

There is no discussion. The secretary general's proposal is approved unanimously.



11.2 Outstanding fees

There are 4 countries (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldavia, Tajikistan and Belarus) that have failed to fulfil the financial obligations for two calendar years. According to the constitution they lose their membership. If they want to come back to ERO they only need to pay their outstanding fees.

The assembly takes note of this information. There is no discussion.

11.3 Budget 2010

Budget 2010 – On the expenditure side Philippe Rusca has kept more or less to the same figures as in the previous years. Due to a smaller income because of the diminution of the membership fees, there will be a smaller benefit. The budget is adopted as well unanimously.

C.12 Next meetings

12.1 Plenary session 2010, Salvador de Bahia

12.2 Plenary session 2011

Nikolai Sharkov presents the candidature of Sofia/Bulgaria, where the next plenary session should be held. The assembly votes unanimously for this “candidate”. The board will decide on the dates and publish them as soon as possible.

12.3 Plenary session 2012

Jiri Zemen shows a short presentation of Prague which is candidate as host city for the 2012 plenary session.

C.13 Miscellaneous

D Close of the meeting

Adjournment

Patrick Hescot thanks the interpreters for their excellent work and the participants for their cooperation, and adjourns the meeting.

Dr. Patrick Hescot
President

Monika Lang
Minutes