

## **ERO-NEWS 9**

December 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The year is inevitably coming to an end. The holiday season should be an occasion for all of us to get some rest, to leave the professional issues behind for a few days and to prepare ourselves for the next year and new challenges.

But before that, I would like to provide an update of the recent activities within the ERO and some of its member organizations.

### **ERO Board meeting in Frankfurt**

ERO Board met in Frankfurt on 7 December to discuss the current activities and to plan our future work.

Many thanks to our President Elect, Michael Frank, for organizing the meeting.

### **WG Dental Team**

Following a meeting on 29 October the ERO WG Dental Team has completed drafting the ERO statement on dental technician profile and relationship with the dentist.

It is planned to put it to the vote at the next Plenary Session, it will be included in the PS materials.

This paper is a continuation of previous works of WG Dental Team chaired by Edoardo Cavalle – Dental Chairside Assistant Profile (2011), Dental Prevention Assistant (2013), Dental Hygienist Profile (2015).

### **WG Relations between universities and private practitioners**

The WG has prepared a questionnaire regarding dental specialties in Europe. We know how many differences there are in European countries regarding the dental specialties – their formal status and the training curricula – so gathering detailed information about it is a good idea.

Please devote some of your time to provide responses following the instructions outlined in a letter of Simona Dianiskova, Paulo Melo and Marco Mazevet.

In addition, Marco Mazevet, who is a member of this WG, has come up with a new initiative which has been endorsed by the ERO Board – we are looking forward to developing this proposal. It is about creating an online platform for students of dentistry and young dentists gathering information and possibly some training materials regarding “liberal dental practice” – the core principle related to the exercise of dental profession which is nowadays more and more often challenged and undermined.

This could become a tool to help students – who are about to start their professional careers – to understand the values of liberal practice.

### **German Dental Days in Berlin**

Continuing an established tradition, the Bundeszahnärztekammer, representative of the German professional self-government of dental practitioners, invited me as well as representatives of many other European dental organizations for the opening ceremony of the German Dental Day 2016 in Berlin on 17 November.



As before, it was not only a chance to meet German colleagues and learn more about the issues that are discussed now in Germany, but also it was an occasion to talk about various issues in a broader, European context.

One of such issues is the current state of liberal professions.

### **Liberal Professions from the point of view of constitutional law**

The professional part of this year's German Dental Day took place in Berlin from 16 until 19 November 2016.

The highlight of the joint opening ceremony of the German Dental Association (BZÄK), the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Dentists (KZBV) and the German Society for Dental and Oral Medicine (DGZMK) was a speech of Peter Müller, judge at the German Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht).

In his notable speech, judge Müller dedicated himself to the topic "liberal professions from the point of view of constitutional law". In view of the ongoing discussions on regulated and liberal professions at both national and European level, P. Müller eloquently recalled the specifics of liberal professions, which distinguish them from other professional groups.

Liberal professions particularly fulfill duties of the public welfare, based on professional independency and a special relationship of trust. In this context, professions such as dentists, doctors and

lawyers pay a significant contribution to society, which could not be better provided in a different way. Thus, for example, the care of patients in a state-controlled medicine couldn't be as good as the care provided by doctors which are organized as liberal professions.

P. Müller expressly warned of the increasing commercialization of society, which would be a great mistake with regard to the liberal professions and their special tasks in society. Judge Müller called on the audience to defend the principles of liberal professions vigorously in Berlin and Brussels. He underlined in this respect that liberal professions are protected by German constitutional law, especially by the individual right of professional freedom.

P. Müller pointed out that interventions in the right of professional freedom are only allowed on the basis of a written law, whereby the essentials of a profession should never be touched

### **95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Estonian Dental Association**

On 25 November 2016 I joined colleagues from Estonia at a celebratory event in Tallinn on the occasion of 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dental Association.



It is always a pleasure for me to have the possibility to congratulate our colleagues for their domestic and international activities. All the best for the future.

**Dates:**

**2 March 2017**, Munich GER  
ERO WG Aging Population meeting

**21 – 22 April 2017**, Geneva SUI  
ERO Plenary Session

**September 2017**, Madrid ESP  
ERO Plenary Session (during FDI AWDC)

**12 – 14 April 2018**, Salzburg AUS –  
ERO Plenary Session

**ERO Plenary session 2017 – spring**

Venue: Novotel (Centre) – Geneva

20 April – evening – Welcome cocktail in the hotel

21 April – morning – WG and Board meetings

21 April – afternoon – plenary session

21 April – evening – Swiss night

22 April – morning – plenary session

22 April – afternoon until early evening – excursion to Chaplin’s world in Vevey – wine tasting and “apéro riche” on the way back to Geneva

*A detailed program and the registration forms will follow in January.*

