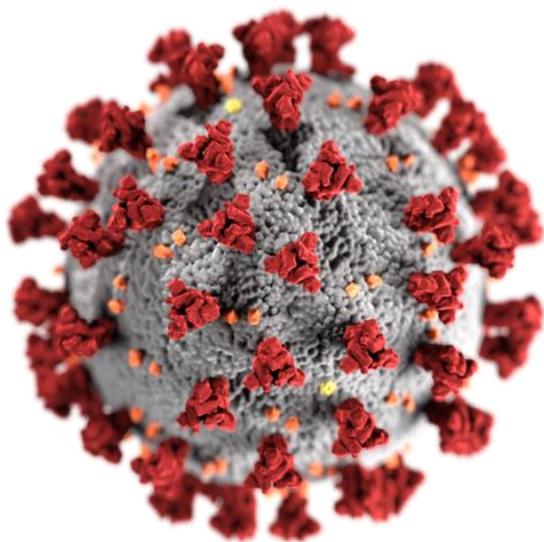




ERO-News 22



Dear colleagues,

Since 2000, the European Union has been united under the common motto "United in diversity". This motto not only reflects the essence of a community of states, but also the current (exceptional) situation. We are united in these weeks and months by the omnipresence of the novel coronavirus and the respiratory disease it can cause. The ways in which the pandemic is being dealt with, however, are manifold, as is the degree of severity with which states, economies and people are affected by the effects of the pandemic and the associated conditions and restrictions.

We dentists are particularly affected by this crisis. We are caught between the obligation to protect others and to protect ourselves - not only because we are

very close to our patients during treatment - and the obligation to maintain medical care. At the same time, we are required to harmonise our medical and entrepreneurial responsibilities.

The recommendations and guidelines that are intended to provide help and guidance to our profession in this situation, as well as the measures taken by the states to ensure the continued existence of our practices and thus the provision of care, are very many and varied.

With this newsletter I would like to inform you about the current consequences of the crisis for the ERO and its political actions and also give you a brief overview of the regulations concerning the dental profession that have been created in the countries of our member organisations. In view of the rapid development, this summary - even in an online medium such as our communications - only has the character of a snapshot.

Cancellation of the ERO plenary session

The decision of the board to cancel the Plenary Session on April 24 and 25 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, was not made easily. We have evaluated the situation and discussed the pros and cons of a cancellation for a long time. Since the Council of European Dentists (CED) had in the meantime also come to the decision to cancel its meeting in Dubrovnik, we decided with a heavy heart to go the same way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kazakhstan Stomatological Association for their support in the preparation of the Plenary Session and for their hospitality.



This decision is all the more important now that the FDI World Dental Congress in Shanghai on 1-4 September 2020 has also been cancelled. The second Plenary Session of the ERO this year was planned in the course of this congress, which must therefore also be cancelled.

Request for a new date

The Board has therefore discussed the possibility of compensating for the loss of the plenary sessions and avoiding a cancellation without replacement. At the moment it looks as if the CED meeting, which is planned for November in Brussels, can take place. This would offer the possibility to hold a plenary meeting of the ERO with meetings of the board and the working groups in the forefront. The planned date would be 18 and 19 November 2020 in Brussels. Details about place and schedule would be announced in time.

We are aware that this planning overlaps with the CED board meeting on 19 November. We will try to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Decision regarding the working groups

At the end of last year, we asked the member organisations to make pro-

posals for the composition of our working groups. Under normal circumstances, the new or already existing members would have been confirmed by the Parliament at the Almaty Assembly. In order to ensure that the working groups can start their work despite the absence of the plenary assembly due to Corona, the Board decided in its video conference on 04.05. to accept the proposals for members and also the chairs of the working groups. This interim solution does not rule out the possibility that any proposals for amendments may be made or discussed by the Parliament at the next plenary session. We only want to ensure that the work can continue or, in the case of our new working group on digitalisation under the leadership of our President-elect Simona Dianiskova, can be started. The supervisors from the Board will contact the chairs at the earliest opportunity in order to prepare a first meeting of the working groups in the form of a video conference and to introduce questions and suggestions of the Board into the planning of future activities of the working groups. The Board has also used this new way of virtual meeting on several occasions and has found it beneficial.

The temporary lists of members and chairs of the working groups will be published on our website (<https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/working-groups/>).

Annual reports

The annual reports of our member organisations, which were also requested in the course of planning the General Assembly in Almaty, are available and have already been posted on our website (<https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/almaty-2020/reports>).

The usual short summary of the reports can also be found on our homepage (<https://www.erodental.org/organs-and-bodies/plenary-session/almaty-2020/reports>).

Corona Pandemic: country-specific regulations in Europe

In recent weeks, the trend has emerged throughout Europe to only allow dental treatment in emergency cases. The countries have taken different paths, partly in the form of official directives, partly in the form of recommendations from the relevant dental associations or chambers.

To our current knowledge, there have been official orders to close dental practices and ensure emergency care in France, Denmark, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Recommendations and demands to close the practice have been made by associations or chambers in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, the Netherlands and Spain.

In Germany, dental care has been maintained with reference to the high standards of hygiene. It was recommended, however, to implement an appropriate risk management with measures to control the flow of patients and to avoid aerosols. In addition, it is recommended to assess the implementation of the treatment in consideration of all aspects and in a prior telephone dialogue with the patients.

As far as compensation for the loss of practice is concerned, there are currently only general rules in Europe - if at all - for the self-employed and small and medium-sized enterprises, which would also cover dental practices. The amounts envisaged are comparatively low and always capped. Dentists - like

doctors and clinics - have thus been severely affected by the corona pandemic and the measures to control it.

In order to better assess and evaluate the further impact of Covid-19 on the dental practices of ERO member countries, the Board will address requests to the NDA's. It would be helpful if as many countries as possible participate in answering the questions.

Cutting annual membership fees in half

During these weeks, many colleagues are experiencing the biggest challenge of their entire professional career ever. Some of them - especially those who have just started or taken over their own practice - are on the verge of ruin. In order to relieve the burden on our member organisations, which are also feeling the effects of the crisis, the Board has decided to reduce membership fees by 50 percent for 2020.

As organisations that have set themselves the task of sustainably improving global oral health and constantly improving dental care across borders, we must not allow these goals to be jeopardised for the benefit of all people by the global rage of the new corona virus. I am convinced that we are able to master this crisis together.

Take good care of yourself and stay healthy!

With warm, collegial greetings



Dr. Michael Frank

Dates and events

18-19 November 2020
- WITH RESERVATION -
Brussels, Belgium
ERO General Assembly

Procedure
Wednesday, 18.11.2020
Morning: Board Meeting - Meeting
Chairs Working Groups
Afternoon: Meeting Working Groups

Thursday, 19.11.2020
General Assembly

April 16/17, 2021
Bucharest, Romania
ERO General Assembly