



**ERO - Plenary session
6th September 2018, Buenos Aires**

**FDI Assembly and Forum Hall – Pabellón Rojo –
La Rural, Predio Ferial de Buenos Aires, Argentina**
Av. Sarmiento 2704, C1425FGP CABA

10h45 – 13h20

Minutes

A Welcome / opening of the session

Anna Lella welcomes all delegates, alternates and guests. She is very pleased that so many participants are present. Michèle Aerden, former FDI president and the delegation from Luxemburg sent their excuses.

B Agenda of the business meeting

The agenda of the business meeting is approved unanimously.

B.1 Roll call – Establishment of the quorum

The roll call always takes a lot of time. Given the short time slot available for this plenary session Oliver Zeyer suggests that the list will now be shown on the screen. The delegates present are asked to control it and communicate any changes to Monika Lang. She will then publish the correct list on the ERO website.

Oliver Zeyer announces that the quorum is achieved.

B.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda is accepted unanimously.

B.3 Approval of the minutes of Salzburg

The minutes of the plenary session in Salzburg are approved unanimously without changes or amendments.

B.4 Information board

Anna Lella refers to the ERO Newsletters which are published on the website and which inform about the latest activities in the ERO. Additionally, the president informs that she has been invited and participated in the 23rd Congress of the Balkan Stomatological Society. Then there were two board meetings since Salzburg (one at the beginning of July in Warsaw and one now in Buenos Aires). The Board reviewed the Rules of procedure of the Working Groups and adopted 2 small amendments – the chairs of the working groups were informed about them and were asked to forward my letter and the combined version of the Rules of procedure to the members of their WG. Yesterday she was invited to take part in the FDI Council B Meeting. Anna Lella is happy, that the policy statement of the WG Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry is adopted in the FDI assembly and that the “European Community within the FDI” is getting larger by the admission of the Montenegro Dental Chamber and the readmission of the Russian Dental Association.

Financial matters are all in order and the list of outstanding fees is getting smaller and smaller, announces Anna Lella.

President: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland) • President-Elect: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Secretary General: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Treasurer: Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) • Councillor: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey)

ERO-Secretariat, Monika Lang, Muenzgraben 2/P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. ++41 31 313 31 61/Fax ++41 313 31 40
mail: ero-sekretariat@ss0.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

B.5 Report from the Spanish Dental Association - Dr. Oscar Castro Reino (President of Consejo General de Dentistas de España)

Oscar Castro Reino thanks for being given the opportunity to speak to this assembly. He refers to a problem that came up in Spain and that may occur in other countries as well. He talks about iDental, “the biggest dental scandal in the world”. iDental was founded in 2014 and went bankrupt in 2018. It is a “low cost” clinic model which served more than 350’000 patients; it counted 3171 employees, of which 800 are dentists. It was based on misleading financial statements, false subsidies and pretended to have social dental assistance by agreements with NGOs, the Spanish Red Cross, Caritas ... A plethora of dentists, lax and poorly applied legislation, on patient’s side a target group of people with poor educational level in a disadvantaged social sector made the growth of these low-cost dental clinics possible. This complete failure of the iDental group has led in just 4 years to a very high number of affected people, a considerable public health problem, big financial problems for the patients and the dismissal of 3,500 workers, of which, 800 are dentists. It is the biggest fraud in the history of Spanish dentistry. The Spanish Dental association has reported in all forums and before all administrations and political groups, deposited claims by judicial means and requested a general prosecution. The most urgent objective is now to repair the damage and prevent similar situations from happening again!

Oscar Castro Reino presents some final reflections: dentistry is a health service, not a consumer good; dentistry needs dentists, not merchants of health; dentistry is based on ethics and the deontological code, not on the clauses of bank loans; health in all its aspects, must be protected and defended by public officials, not left in the hands of unscrupulous people and speculators!

Anna Lella thanks Oscar Castro Reino for this very interesting and in the same time alarming report.

The following discussion shows that this problem is widespread and very well-known all-over Europe, although maybe not in the magnitude of this Spanish case. Many of the delegates suspect that the reason for this deplorable situation is due to the increasing deregulation within the EU. Together we must find a way to stop this behavior. There is a CED working group that deals with this problem and they will have a meeting next week. Later in this plenary session there will be a report by the WG Liberal Dental Practice which is discussing these kind of problems since a long time.

Unfortunately, the Spanish government can do little about it apart from a better supervision. We are living in a world where the free market is common and permitted.

The situation of the dentists employed by such clinics is another issue. All of a sudden, these dentists can be out of work and consequently the patients without dentists. Problems which we did not have to face before. This could be a consequence of the increasing number of dentists that do not work full time and therefore look for work in bigger clinics.

Oscar Castro Reino pleads with the delegates of this assembly to act now. It is high time and we must approach this problem from the ethical side, otherwise these mercantile structures will eat away our work.

B.6 Working groups

1. Relation between dental practitioners and universities

At the beginning of her report Simona Dianiskova shows the quite impressive list of WG members. Unfortunately, a lot of them never participate in a meeting or contribute via e-mail

to the work of the group. She will therefore ask all if they are still interested to work with them.

The current activity of the WG is about "European perspective on Interprofessional Education" which is a joint project ERO and ADEE. Key information come from different documents elaborated by FDI, ERO and CED. There are various topics and questions which have been mentioned in an article outline established by Nermin Yamalik and discussed in the WG meeting this morning in Buenos Aires. Such as: What is interprofessional education? Why is interprofessional education important? Why is it needed? What are the benefits of interprofessional education? What is the relationship between interprofessional education and collaborative practice? Etc.

And very important: What can be the role of ERO for successful interprofessional education? Share best practice models of IPE/CP across Europe, define the roles of dental team members in Europe, and promote the leading role of dentist in the dental team and many more. There are several good examples such as the Policlinique Universitaire (PMU) in Lausanne, Switzerland, that provides a range of general health services, including oral health.

Simona Dianiskova outlines the next steps to be taken (**September 2018-March 2019** - Working on the article - Compiling and sending out a questionnaire to ERO and ADEE members/**April 2019** - Present results of the survey to the ERO Plenary Session/**September 2019** - Conclusion of the project will be presented at ERO PS and the final goal: to introduce a statement?). She thanks for the attention paid to this project.

Georgios Tsiogkas thinks that this is a very good and important project. He points out that the partners in this cooperation should be chosen with care in order to have those who really have the experience and knowledge needed.

2. Liberal Dental Practice in Europe

Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach: The president of the Spanish Association of Dentists clearly showed what our work has to be in the near future. We have already pointed out our will to maintain a liberal professional practice in a number of statements and resolutions. Most recently, the WG explained this in its work "Is liberal dental practice in danger?" that was presented in Salzburg. So, you can see that we have recognized the danger very early. Nevertheless, the situation is getting worse and worse. The reasons for this are diverse. One thing our survey has shown: there are no binding regulations for the form and manner to practice our profession. The WG meeting in June was dedicated to this topic. In a conversation with a Chinese dentistry professor working in the US, it has been confirmed that this problem of mercantilism is manifesting itself in our profession worldwide. Fast and decisive action is now required. This is why we decided to formulate a resolution summarizing the points that we have been advocating in recent years and we hope that this will also be transported from ERO to FDI, hereby counting on the support of Gerhard Seeberger as President-elect of the FDI and committed member of the WG. Ernst-Jürgen Otterbach asks for the delegate's support of this paper. He closes his remarks with the urgent reminder that our solely contact must be our patients.

In the following vote the statement is approved **unanimously**.

3. Integration

Vladimer Margvelashvili listes the goals of the WG Integration: Promote the development of programs and activities, meet the needs of our members and help to raise awareness of oral health at national levels. ERO is always by the side of its members and it is important to

President: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland) • President-Elect: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Secretary General: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Treasurer: Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) • Councillor: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey)

ERO-Secretariat, Monika Lang, Muenzgraben 2/P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. ++41 31 313 31 61/Fax ++41 313 31 40
mail: ero-sekretariat@sso.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

continue supporting them by giving access to better communication and by advocating them globally. ERO will help its members to implement oral programs in their countries and advocate oral health on a global level. ERO is the leader of European dentistry and fully involved in achieving political commitment and action for oral health and improving conditions.

In the plenary session in Salzburg we declared the main goal of ERO WG "Integration" which is to follow the steps of progress and advancement of civilization. Most important is the role and independence of NDA's. During many decades the National Dental Associations of the new independent countries were annexes of ministries of Health; unfortunately, in most countries they are still in the same position. So, heads of NDA's are high level professionals, members of academic society, authoritative figures, but with no financial power. This is due to existing regulations and legislation, the lack of independence (they do not have the opportunity to make free decisions). They are responsible for the professional development of their colleagues working in dental care. In order to improve the situation and to make existing legislation more harmonized we have to change some of the regulations in dentistry of the new independent countries by delivering recommendations to the health authorities, such as

- Mandatory membership of NDA for receiving the right of dental practice in the country.
It will give more financial power to the NDAs and will support the organization to perform its highest duty - professional development of all dentists all over the country.
- Obligatory Continuing dental Education for all practicing dentists.
Today, when new materials enter the dental market, when technologies, methods, guidelines and protocols of diagnoses, treatment and prevention improve, any dentist needs professional advancement. The license received 20-40 years ago is not sufficient for being in dental service.
- To transfer the rights of implementation of CDE processes and license examination to NDA.
Together with the Ministry of Health, the NDA is responsible for the quality of dental care of the country.

It is crucial not to forget to promote the importance of ERO among young dentists. We therefore suggest starting an ERO scholarship in several (5-6) universities of the new independent countries. More precisely: we consider distributing 600 € per country per year. There will be a proposal at the next plenary session of how to organize it and where the sponsors for this scholarship should come from.

Vladimer Margvelashvili thanks the WG members for their support and cooperation.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk thinks that in the plenary session it is not reflected what is really going on in the WG. In his opinion the members in fact were not in favor of this idea of scholarship and the chairman declares that we will pursue this idea. The purpose of the WG Integration is to transmit knowledge in the field of dentistry to the Eastern countries. We are not a money society. He sees a problem in communication, a misrepresentation of the members.

It happens that not all members of a group agree with a project. But in the end it will not be the WG to decide, but the plenary session, remarks Michael Frank, and it is the task of the WG chairperson to inform about the discussions.

Bedros Yavru-Sakuk would rather spend money on translations. The reason why people from the Eastern countries do not participate in the meetings is because they do not understand. While Vladimer Margvelashvili declares, that this is not primarily about money, but about the role of ERO and its commitment for the young generation.

President: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland) • President-Elect: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Secretary General: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Treasurer: Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) • Councillor: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey)

ERO-Secretariat, Monika Lang, Muenzgraben 2/P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. ++41 31 313 31 61/Fax ++41 313 31 40
mail: ero-sekretariat@sso.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

Beat Wäckerle closes the argument in saying that it would be wrong just to spend money on whatsoever. There has to be a project and a budget frist. He himself is not so in favor of more translation. Everybody has to learn languages in order to understand and communicate.

4. Dental Team

Edoardo Cavallé reports about the activities of the WG, which – by the way – has changed its name into: Dental Team in Practice of 2030. It focused on questions about new challenges and technologies in our profession, the future dental team and the expectations of the new generation of dentists. They will stress the cooperation with the other working groups. We are moving a very difficult mine field, remarks Edoardo Cavallé. A specific education and examination provided by competent authorities (dental associations) is necessary to fulfil new tasks related to new social needs and developments of new technologies. In this context he refers to a survey which will help to understand how the workforce varies across the ERO region. The questionnaire has been sent to all NDAs. Ten have answered and he invites all those that have not yet responded to do so. The answers are important and will help the WG to continue its work. The group will meet again on 8th February 2019 in Frankfurt.

5. Continuing Medical Education in Dentistry

The session template for continuing medical education in dentistry presented by Hande Sar Sancakly in Salzburg has been approved by ERO and FDI. A support letter will be distributed after the PS and uploaded as well on the website. The chairwoman further refers to the evaluation of the learning formats for CMED. This serves to assess the dentists preferred learning format for CME acitivities. The survey will stay online for a while and she hopes that in the next days and weeks they will get a lot more answers (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFTcrC_aCUJxj6uXXiLMNgL4Rni1t1NI0qBaDg7Z8nW_HEAg/viewform). Hande Sar Sancakly presents some of the questions and the answers received so far. More will be shown in Frankfurt. The corresponding FDI Draft Policy Statement is a very important step. It may be the first time that something like that is presented in FDI statement! She thanks all her WG members for their good collaboration.

6. Quality of care

On behalf of Roland L'Herron, who has to be present in the meeting of the Dental Practice Committee, Oliver Zeyer gives a short update on the activities of the WG Quality of care. Even if there has been no meeting since Salzburg they were not inactive. They prepared a short questionnaire which should give an overview of recommendations in the quality field existing in the ERO countries. As soon as it is ready, it will be sent to the NDAs.

As supervisor of this working group, Oliver Zeyer is quite frustrated about the long list of member and the few that ever participate in a meeting. In the future, members that are not present without an excuse will be radiated from the list.

7. Ageing Population

Philippe Rusca is happy with his working group. It is very active and he reports about a good collaboration with FDI. The group met before this plenary session and he now presents different points that have been elaborated. He prefers to call it recommendations rather than a statement.

President: Dr. Anna Lella (Poland) • President-Elect: Dr. Michael Frank (Germany) • Secretary General: Dr. Oliver Zeyer (Switzerland) • Treasurer: Dr. Bartolomeo Griffa (Italy) • Councillor: Prof. Taner Yücel (Turkey)

ERO-Secretariat, Monika Lang, Muenzgraben 2/P.O. Box, CH-3001 Bern, Tel. ++41 31 313 31 61/Fax ++41 313 31 40
mail: ero-sekretariat@ss0.ch

Bank account: CREDIT SUISSE AG, 3001 Bern, Switzerland - Account No. 1872503-32, IBAN CH14 0483 5187 2503 3200 0, BIC CRESCHZZ80A
in the name of European Regional Organisation of FDI, 1216 Cointrin, Switzerland

This is the criteria which the WG thought is important: Demography shows that the proportion of elderly people is increasing. Since oral health is an integral part of general health the goal is to maintain oral health and provide the corresponding care. All dental professionals should contribute and therefore the code of ethics should specify that treating ageing population is every dentist's concern. The recommendations may require considerable additional resource if they are to be enacted across all healthcare systems. It is very important that every dentist can contribute. This means that education in geriatric dentistry is essential. Geriatric dentistry should be incorporated into undergraduate (basic education) and postgraduate dental curricula. The dentist needs to adjust from a "treat everything" philosophy to treating and restoring what is necessary for patients to function comfortably. Prevention should come before intervention and it is important that an individual oral health plan is developed. Twice daily oral health care must be provided to all long-term care residents who are unable to manage their own care. The staff in long term care facilities should be aware of the importance of thorough daily oral care for the residents; they should be trained and equipped to provide that care. It is necessary to include a dental check-up into the schedule of general medical examinations of the residents performed at least once a year with follow-up procedure.

Philippe Rusca then refers to a book which will be published within a short time with the title "Oral rehabilitation for compromised and elderly patients" edited by Alexander Mersel. A book that could be very helpful for people working in the field of gerodontology.

The delegates accept unanimously the recommendations presented by Philippe Rusca.

8. Approval of the reports of the Working groups

All reports are accepted unanimously.

B.7 Next meetings

Plenary session 2019 (spring) - Frankfurt a.M. (Germany), 25-27 April

Plenary session 2019 (autumn) – within FDI Congress in San Francisco

Plenary session 2020 (spring) - Almaty (Kazakhstan)

Anna Lella informs that we have received a candidature for the organization of the plenary session 2021 in Romania. We will talk about it in Frankfurt.

B.8 Miscellaneous

-

B.9 Information on FDI matters

All candidates for a post in FDI council or committees are given the opportunity to take the floor and present themselves.

C Close of the meeting – adjournment

Anna Lella thanks all the participants for attending this plenary session, her board members and the secretariat for the cooperation and the interpreters for their much-appreciated service.

The president:

Dr. Anna Lella

Minutes:

Monika Lang