

## **CED STATEMENT**

# **WASTE WATER DISPOSAL IN DENTAL CLINICS**

December 2016

## INTRODUCTION

The Council of European Dentists (CED)<sup>1</sup> aims to promote high standards on oral healthcare and dentistry with effective patient-safety centred professional practice, and to contribute to safeguarding the protection of public health. With this statement the CED wishes to raise awareness on safe management of healthcare waste.

## STATEMENTS

The environmentally correct and safe disposal and management of urban waste water in dental clinics is a concern of dental practitioners.

It is common knowledge that a dental unit generates both liquid and solid waste. Liquid waste for dental offices includes all materials collected from suction systems.

For suction systems and spittoons, amalgam separators are recommended<sup>2</sup> in line with legislation.

The collection and disposal of contaminated waste water varies according to Member States.

Dental clinics must avoid discharging water with chemical residue, biohazardous material and by-products of laboratory manufacturing.

Urban waste water from dental clinics has to be treated and disposed in an environmentally safe way according to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive<sup>3</sup>.

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**Unanimously adopted by the CED General Meeting on 2 December 2016**

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<sup>1</sup> The CED is a European not-for-profit association representing over 340,000 dental practitioners across Europe through 32 national dental associations and chambers in 30 European countries. Established in 1961 to advise the European Commission on matters relating to the dental profession. The CED is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 4885579968-84.

<sup>2</sup> See [CED Resolution on environmental management of dental materials: responsible practice 2013 update](#) and [CED Resolution on Dental Amalgam: 2013 Update](#), from November 2013

<sup>3</sup> [Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste water treatment](#). The Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of these waste water discharges.