

CED ACTIVITIES INFO

Issue 3 – July 2012

COUNCIL OF
EUROPEAN DENTISTS



Introduction

Section I of our newsletter reports on the political activities of the CED President and Board members and summarises the work of CED Working Groups, Board Task Forces and the Brussels Office. In Section II, we take a closer look at individual CED Working Groups and Board Task Forces, their policy priorities for 2012-2013 and, most importantly, the experts that make their work possible. In Section III, CED member associations share their news and positions on current issues.

HEALTHY MOUTH, HEALTHY LIVING, HEALTHY AGEING CED EVENT IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 26 June 2012, MEP Cristian Silviu Buşoi hosted the CED event "Healthy mouth, healthy living, healthy ageing: Investing in prevention is the most cost-effective approach to healthcare" in the European Parliament in Brussels. More than 50 participants attended the event, including delegates of 14 national dental associations and dental chambers from across Europe, as well as representatives of Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE), French Union for Oral Health, European Heart Network (EHN), AGE Platform Europe, European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT), industry and MEP assistants.

Speakers included the CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus and the chair of CED Working Group Oral Health Dr. Paula Vassalo, as well as Prof. Frauke Müller, Secretary of the European College of Gerodontology, Dr. Katrín Fjeldsted, President elect of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Paul De Raeve, Secretary General of the European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN), Mervi Jokinen, President of the European Midwives Association (EMA), Jurate Svarcaite of the

Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) and Elizabeth Manero, Director of Health Link, an independent patient interest group. The main messages that emerged from the event included a reminder that oral health is an integral part of general health and well-being; that tackling oral diseases separately from general diseases is neither medically effective nor cost-efficient; and that oral health must be integrated in general prevention and health promotion at national and EU level. Participants also noted that oral health of the elderly presents specific challenges, requiring systemic changes and sufficient funding, and encouraged interdisciplinary and integrative approaches to healthcare, with enhanced education, cooperation and exchange of information between different healthcare professions and patients.

A full report will be available on the CED website in early September.

SECTION I – CED INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CED PRESIDENT

BRUSSELS EVENTS

In June, CED President Wolfgang Doneus travelled to Brussels twice: on 5 June, to attend the conference on liberal professions and professional organisations co-organised by BZÄK (see article on

page 5) and on 26 June, to speak at the CED event on oral health in the European Parliament. During the BZÄK event he met the IMCO rapporteur on the Professional Qualifications Directive MEP Bernadette Vergnaud, while the CED event proved to be an opportunity to talk to the representatives of other health professions, including the newly elected CPME President elect Dr. Katrín Fjeldsted who will lead CPME between 2013 and 2015.

CED BOARD

DENTAL INDUSTRY EVENTS

On 31 May, **CED Director Marco Landi attended a dinner event** organised by ADDE (Association of Dental Dealers in Europe) and FIDE (Federation of the European Dental Industry) in the European Parliament. During the event, which was hosted by MEP Paul Rübige (Austria, EPP) and attended by MEP Matteo Salvini (Italy, EFD). Marco Landi addressed the participants and called on MEPs to keep oral health high on their agenda, despite the economic crisis. He underlined the importance of phasing down rather than phasing out dental amalgam and the dentists' commitment to environmentally responsible practices. Finally, he expressed concerns about the attempts to develop standards for delivery of dental treatment at EU level and the linked proposed [Regulation on European Standardisation](#).

CED WORKING GROUPS (WG)

WG EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (WG EPQ)

On 8 June, CED Head of Office Nina Bernot represented the CED at the **meeting of health professions with MEP Emilie Turunen**, Greens' shadow rapporteur for the Professional Qualification Directive in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO). Apart from discussing the [joint health professions' position](#), Ms. Turunen was also interested in hearing about the specific suggestions of the dentists for the Directive.

On 13 June, **CED Policy Officer Sara Roda met with the assistant of MEP Anja Weisgerber** to present and discuss the [CED position on the Professional Qualifications Directive \(PQD\)](#). Ms. Weisgerber is responsible for preparing the draft opinion on the PQD of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee (ENVI). Her [draft opinion](#) was published on 20 July (for the moment only available in German). Ms. Weisgerber supported the CED amendment to include the 5000 hours of theoretical and practical training under article 34 paragraph 2 of the PQD. She also suggests the deletion of the new paragraph 4 of Article 34, proposed by the Commission, in connection to delegated acts.

On 3-4 July, **former WG member Ms. Barbara Bergmann-Krauss attended the introductory meeting of the ESCO reference groups** as an expert and on behalf of the CED. ESCO, the multilingual taxonomy of skills, competences, qualifications and occupations, shall be developed as an instrument which intends to stimulate the mobility in the EU. It is an advanced development of the EURES platform for job placement and for international CVs.

On 11 July, the **CED-ADEE Task Force met to discuss the new draft Annex 5.3.1 of the PQD**. The Task Force's first draft was prepared by ADEE and it mainly focused on competences. The second draft will now include learning outcomes in modules and the measurement of these modules in ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). This second draft will be drafted by 3 September and the Task Force will meet again on 24 October to finalise the draft annex and to start preparing an accompanying working document which will explain some of the new concepts introduced therein.

On 16 July, MEP Bernadette Vergnaud published her [draft report on the PQD](#) (for the moment only available in French). Ms. Vergnaud also supported the CED amendment to include 5000 hours of theoretical and practical training (amendment 57 of the draft report). The report did not however include the intended reference to 300 ECTS. Rather, Ms. Vergnaud brought forward a definition for ECTS (amendment 19), which the CED pointed out should be included in the Directive. Certain MEPs are reticent to accept the introduction of the ECTS in the PQD since this system is not standardised at EU level. Each Member State can define the number of ECTS it can give to a dental subject as well as the hours that each subject will take. Ms. Vergnaud's draft report also includes an amendment on language knowledge similar to the one proposed by the health professions (Article 53 of the PQD), as well as amendments on the provisions for delegated acts for which she proposes the consultation of national competent authorities and professional associations (amendments 10 and 86). Concerning the principle of partial access, Ms. Vergnaud suggests conferring to the Member States the power to exclude a profession from this regime (amendment 1).

WG EHEALTH

On 11 June, the **WG met in Brussels and on 27 June on-line**, to discuss and conclude the draft CED Resolution on eHealth. The draft resolution has been amended and will be considered for adoption at the November General Meeting. The WG also discussed the General Data Protection Regulation, followed up on the CED's participation in the e-Health Stakeholders Group and decided on the next WG's steps.

WG MEDICAL DEVICES

On 15 June, CED Head of Office Nina Bernot attended a **stakeholder consultation on the European Commission's actions following the PIP breast implant affair**. The Commission is moving forward with measures aiming at more consistent and uniform application of existing medical devices legislation, particularly as they relate to the functioning of notified bodies and unannounced audits, at national level. The Commission is also planning to adopt by the end of the year an implementing regulation on notified bodies and a recommendation on the audits. The proposal for a new Regulation on Medical Devices (to replace the existing directives) is in the Commission's interservice consultation and will be probably adopted on 26 September 2012. The proposal is likely to include some strengthened language on incident reporting by healthcare providers, as well as provisions on registers/databases for implants.

On 5 July, CED Policy Officer Sara Roda attended the **meeting of the UDI Ad-Hoc Working Group**. The Commission explained in general lines the provisions related to UDI (Unique Device Identification) in the future Regulation on Medical Devices, presented the draft recommendation establishing an EU UDI system which will include obligations for professional users (dentists), and updated on the activity of the International Medical

Device Regulator's Forum (IMDRF) and UDI Work Team. CED requested the inclusion of an exemption for custom-made devices in the draft recommendation, which was accepted by the Commission.

WG Medical Devices member and CED liaison to the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) Jens Nagaba submitted a **report from the CED to the CEN/TC 55** (Technical Committee 55) meeting which took place in Brussels on 10 July. The report stressed the CED's opposition to development of European standards for the delivery of dental treatment. The CED had no proposals for new standardisation projects in TC 55.

WG ORAL HEALTH

WG Oral Health met on 26 June to evaluate the CED event on oral health which was organised in the European Parliament earlier on the same day. They underlined the importance of follow-up with European decision-makers and of continued cooperation with other health professions. They felt that similar events should be organised also by national dental associations, to raise at national level the awareness of correlation between oral and general health. They also discussed the future work of the WG and decided to propose to the CED General Meeting in November the adoption of a new mandate.

On 17 July, **CED Policy Officer Sara Roda participated in a tele-conference of the I2-FRESCO project**. The CED has been invited to participate in this project in cooperation with CPME following the CED event on oral health in the European Parliament. This project aims at developing an integrated approach for preventing physical frailty. CPME will be the leader of the Work Stream on Health Literacy and Education which will focus on early identification of physical frailty and raising awareness among the population, though a dedicated web-

site and other campaign tools. This will include advice on nutrition, physical activity and, with cooperation of the CED, on oral health.

CED BOARD TASK FORCES (BTF)

BTF ANTIBIOTICS IN DENTISTRY

In May, and following contact with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), **CED Board agreed to establish a new Task Force on antibiotics**. Named Board Task Force Antibiotics in Dentistry, the group will be chaired by CED Director Susie Sanderson, with Director Nikolai Sharkov also participating. Membership in the Task Force is open to other CED Members who have particular experience and interest in the issue.

BTF Antibiotics in Dentistry will meet with representatives of ECDC on 24 September in Brussels to discuss possible participation of the CED in the European Antibiotic Awareness Day (16 November) and other ways of collaboration.

BTF COMMUNICATIONS

As part of the CED Annual Communications Work Plan, **the first meeting of CED Communications Officers** will be organised in Brussels on 21 September. This will be an opportunity for those responsible for communications in national dental associations to acquaint themselves with CED work, exchange experiences from their daily work and comment on current and planned CED communications activities. The meeting will also include a briefing about the Professional Qualifications Directive from a Commission official and a guided visit to the European Parliament.

BTF INTERNAL MARKET

On 25 June, the **BTF Internal Market met** to discuss and prepare the CED position on the [General Data](#)

[Protection Regulation](#); to discuss the impact on the delivery of oral health-care of a possible introduction of VAT in dental care following the [Commission's Communication on VAT](#); and to follow up on the [2012 Euro health Consumer Index report](#), prepared by Health Consumer Powerhouse. This report ranks 34 national healthcare systems based on different groups of indicators of quality. This year winner was the Netherlands and the index table is available [here](#).

The BTF decided to write to Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Viviane Reding, requesting clarification on certain provisions of the Regulation that introduce new legal obligations which can have severe impact on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. The BTF intends to clarify i) if and what kind of specific measures are going to be introduced to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises through delegated acts; ii) the right to retain patient data (i.e., dental records) for purposes such as outside inspections, complaint procedures, identification of remains; iii) the investigative powers of the supervisory authorities to access a dental clinic premises, including to any processing equipment as well as to all personal data and information necessary for the performance of their duties; iv) the controller's (dentist) obligation to document in writing the controller's instructions; and to alert v) to the financial consequences of being brought to justice in another Member State. According to the Regulation, the data subject (i.e. patient) has the right to file a lawsuit against the controller (dentist) or the processor (e.g. receptionist, secretary, etc.) in the Member State of the data subject residence if the latter considers that the processing of his/her data was not in compliance with the Regulation.

BTF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

On 25 June, a **joint meeting of BTF Liberal Professions and BTF Internal Market** took place in Brussels, to allow BTF Liberal Professions to provide input for CED positions on VAT and data protection. Among other issues, BTF Liberal Professions also discussed the IHS study on liberal professions, the upcoming Green Paper on European entrepreneurship, and CED activities connected to the future of liberal professions in Europe.

On 19 July, BTF Chair Nikolai Sharkov, BTF member Wolfgang Sprekels and CED Policy Officer Sara Roda attended the “**EU Day of the Liberal Professions**” organised by the European Economic and Social Committee. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of the current state of regulation and de-regulation in the different Member States, exchange information in this regard, and to elaborate some conclusions to be transmitted to different European institutions.

SECTION II – CED WORKING GROUP

AMALGAM & OTHER RESTORATIVE MATERIALS (WG A&ORM)

HISTORY

WG A&ORM was established in May 2006 as WG Amalgam to explain the position of the CED on the safety of dental amalgam, particularly in light of the European Parliament’s call for restrictions on its use. Over the years, this WG has helped developing CED policy related to the use of dental amalgam and responsible practice. It has i) pointed out that research over many decades had failed to show any significant health risk posed by dental amalgam; ii) called on Member States to ensure the full implementation and enforcement of EU waste laws; iii) supported the use amalgam separators which respect ISO standards; iv) highlighted that dental amalgam

continues to be the most appropriate filling material for many restorations due to its ease of use, durability and cost-effectiveness; iv) alerted on the fact that restrictions on the use of amalgam will impact on patients’ ability to afford dental care as well as damage the financial stability of health systems; v) stressed that dentists are best placed to identify patients’ oral health needs; vi) underlined that amalgam should remain part of the dentist’s armoury in order to best meet patients’ needs; and vii) stressed that preventive disease management and oral health promotion should be actively fostered by national governments in order to reduce the use of restorative materials, including dental amalgam.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Since 2010, the WG follows the review of the [Community Strategy Concerning Mercury](#) and, indirectly, the discussions under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to develop a global treaty on mercury. For this purpose, the WG has prepared the [CED Resolution on Amalgam](#) (November 2010) and the [CED Resolution on Responsible Practice](#) (November 2011). Most recently, the WG developed the CED’s response to the [BIOIS](#) draft report entitled “*Study on the potential for reducing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and batteries*”. The WG has criticised the draft report (further information can be found in [Issue 2/2012 of the CED Activities Info](#)). In brief, the CED supported option 1 of the BIOIS draft report which recommends an improvement in the enforcement of EU waste legislation regarding dental amalgam, and challenged option 3 which recommends banning the use of mercury in dentistry.

On 12 July, the [BIOIS final report](#) was released and, as this article went to press, the WG was updating its position on the issue.

At present, the dental profession intends to contribute to a phase-down scenario in 20-30 years, emphasising however that this goal can only be achieved if supported by strong prevention programmes at national level. Otherwise, an immediate ban will only contribute to create an unintended consequence of increased untreated disease levels, or, indeed, the unintended consequence of the choice by the patient of extraction rather than restoration. EU countries need to have the flexibility to introduce restrictions on the use of amalgam at a pace which supports their own health economies.

On 19 July, the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) has been requested to issue two scientific opinions with interest for the WG:

1. Request for a scientific opinion on [The safety of dental amalgam and alternative dental restoration materials for patients and users](#);
2. Request for a scientific opinion: [Health effects of nanomaterials used in Medical Devices](#).

NEW NAME, NEW MANDATE

In May 2012, the WG Amalgam became WG Amalgam & Other Restorative Materials (WG A&ORM) in order to cover the entire range of dental restorative materials. The new WG remit includes developing an evidence-based summary of alternative materials, starting with those containing bisphenol A, and preparing a CED position on the use of Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART).

POLICY PRIORITIES 2012-2013

The WG intends to assess the impact of possible proposals emerging from the final report of the BIOIS study as well as the EU’s reaction to the report, and to review reports emerging from countries that have had amalgam bans in place for some years. The WG will carefully consider the proposals emerging from several Member States’ gov-

ernments to change their approach to the use of dental amalgam in the light of environmental groups' pressure and will encourage and support CED Members in communicating regularly with their health and environment government departments in this regard. The WG will continue to actively put the profession's views to influential stakeholders, liaise with the FDI Dental Amalgam Task Team, develop the CED's position on significant constituents of other restorative materials, and develop the CED's position on Atraumatic Restorative Treatment and minimal intervention concepts.

WHO MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

WG members are at the heart of CED policy. The current members of the WG are:

- **Dr. Susie Sanderson**, WG Chair and Board liaison, CED Treasurer, Director of the British Dental Association Principle Executive Committee, awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list 2012, dental practitioner and author of innumerable articles, British Dental Association, United Kingdom;
- **Dr. Audrey Camilleri**, dental practitioner, Dental Association of Malta, Malta;
- **Dr. Francisco Rodriguez Lozano**, CED Vice-President, President of the Spanish Committee on Tobacco Prevention (CNPT), member of the CGOE – Consejo General de Colegios de Odontólogos y Estomatólogos de España, dental practitioner, Spanish Dental Association, Spain;
- **Prof. Dr. h.c. Georg Meyer**, Managing Director of the Centre for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery of the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald, German Dental Chamber, Germany;
- **Prof. Dr. Gottfried Schmalz**, Director of the Department of Operative Dentistry and Periodontology, University of Regensburg, author of "[Biocompatibility of Dental Materials](#)" 2009, Distinguished Scientist Award of the IADR, German Dental Chamber, Germany;

- **Prof. Dr. John Tzoutzas**, Associate Professor in Operative Dentistry, School of Dentistry, University of Athens, Hellenic Dental Association, Greece;

- **Dr. Klaas-Jan Bakker**, lawyer, Dutch Dental Association – NMT, Netherlands;

- **Prof. Dr. Péter Hermann**, Professor in the Department of Prosthodontics, Faculty of Dentistry, Semmelweis University, and President of the Dental Section of the Hungarian Medical Chamber, Hungary;

- **Prof. Dr. Matjaž Rode**, MDD, PhD, Professor in the Department of Clinical Oral Pathology, Medical Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia, Vice-President of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia;

- **Dr. Serge Deschaux**, dental practitioner, CNSD - Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires, France.

SECTION III – CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

“EUROPE 2020 – THE FUTURE OF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS – PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS” CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS

Together with the German Association of Liberal Professions (BFB) and the German Medical Association (BÄK), the German Dental Association (BZÄK) organised a conference in Brussels at the beginning of June on the role of liberal professions in Europe attended by almost 200 guests from the European institutions and from national and international professional associations.

In his speech, the BZÄK President, Dr Peter Engel, outlined the tensions between European regulation and deregulation that have been dogging the liberal professions for years. He appealed for EU policy to better meet the particular concerns of the liberal professions. The conference concluded that, while the system of chambers is a tried and tested model of self-management, cham-

bers must review their role and reinvent themselves for the future.

The programme and other information on the conference can be found [here](#).

Contributed by BZÄK, Germany

INVITATION TO PRAGUE DENTAL DAYS

The 15th international congress Prague Dental Days will take place on October 3 - 5, 2012 at the Prague Congress Centre under the auspices of the Mayor of Prague.

The scientific programme of the congress will be traditionally focused on all members of the dental team as well as on students of those professions. The topics of sixty-four lectures will cover all disciplines of dentistry. We expect about 1300 participants from the Czech Republic and abroad.

After last year's success and great interest, the congress will be extended again by Days of Children's Prevention, a program for lay public. The event is intended for pupils of nursery and elementary schools and for children from mother-child centres.

This year's traditional international workshop for CED members and for invited guests will be held on the topic "To what extent should the dental care be covered by health insurance?"

Detailed programme and on-line registration form for the congress can be found [here](#).

Contributed by the Czech Dental Chamber

If CED Members wish to receive further information about any of the items mentioned in the newsletter, please contact: ced@eudental.eu