

CED ACTIVITIES INFO

Issue 1 – January 2013

COUNCIL OF
EUROPEAN DENTISTS



Introduction

*Welcome to 2013! This, our first newsletter of the year takes a closer look at **CED Working Group Patient Safety**. Section I continues to report on the political activities of the CED President, Board members and to summarise the work of the other CED Working Groups, Board Task Forces and the Brussels Office. In Section III, CED member associations share their positions on current issues.*

SECTION I – CED INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

CED PRESIDENT

MEETING WITH DATA PROTECTION RAPPOREUR

On 29 January 2013, CED President Dr Wolfgang Doneus met in Brussels MEP Jan Philip Albrecht, the rapporteur in the European Parliament's LIBE Committee on the [proposed General Data Protection Regulation](#). The President raised the issues of consent for processing data in a dentist-patient relationship, the risk of "right to be forgotten" being applied to healthcare and the possible new requirements on dentists for an impact assessment and a data protection officer. He also presented MEP Albrecht with the [joint statement](#) and the [press release](#) of the Healthcare Coalition on Data Protection, pointing out the dangers of the proposed Regulation having a negative impact on healthcare delivery and health research.

CED BOARD

BOARD ELECTIONS

During the CED General Meeting in November 2012, CED Members elected four members of the CED Board, re-electing Dr Wolfgang Doneus (Austria) as President and Dr Marco Landi (Italy) and Dr Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria) as Directors for another three-year term. Dr Alexander Tolmeijer (the Netherlands) was elected as a Director

and has taken over the role of the chair of CED Board Task Force Internal Market and the Board liaison of the CED WG Infection Control and Waste Management.

CED WORKING GROUPS (WG)

WG AMALGAM AND OTHER RESTORATIVE MATERIALS

WG Amalgam and Other Restorative Materials has been monitoring the developments related to the UNEP negotiations for an international mercury treaty. UNEP negotiations closed on 19 January 2013 with a good outcome for dentistry. The agreement acknowledged the WHO's phase down approach as appropriate and will allow national governments to pace their actions according to domestic needs. Attention should also be paid to prevention programmes designed to reduce the incidence of dental diseases, to best practices for reducing the environmental load from dental amalgam waste and to use and research into alternative restorative materials.

WG chair Dr Susie Sanderson has thanked members of the group, some of whom have also contributed to the success with the international treaty through the FDI's Dental Amalgam Task Team, for their work on the issue. WG is now preparing to contribute to the work of the European Commission's Scientific Committees that are drafting two new opinions on dental amal-

gam, scheduled to be published in June.

WG EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (EPQ)

WG EPQ welcomed on 23 January 2013 the adoption in the IMCO Committee of the European Parliament of the report on the Professional Qualifications Directive. The Committee agreed that basic dental training should comprise a total of at least five years of full-time study, which may, as a complement, be expressed with the equivalent ECTS credits, consisting of at least 5000 hours of theoretical and practical study. In addition, they proposed that partial access should not apply to the professions benefiting from automatic recognition under the Directive and clarified the provisions on language checks for health professions.

WG EPQ has worked hard to ensure this outcome, among other through a [CED-ADEE Joint Statement](#), issued just days before the IMCO vote. Its next meeting will be scheduled in March.

Former WG member and CED representative in the ESCO (European Skills/Competences, Qualifications and Occupations) Barbara Bergmann-Krauss participated on 11 and 12 December 2012 in the meeting of the Reference Group for healthcare and social work. The reference group is currently working on definitions of competences for different professions and the



CED is contributing to define those for professions in dentistry.

WG EHEALTH

WG eHealth held an online meeting on 14 December 2012 to review and amend CED amendments on the Commission's proposal for the General Data Protection Regulation.

On 25 January 2013, WG eHealth met in Brussels. WG members discussed CED contribution to the IHTSDO's (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) Dental Special Interest Group which is developing harmonised nomenclature for dental diagnosis codes, EPSOS (Smart Open Services for European Patients) project and the eHealth Stakeholders Group. WG eHealth agreed to propose developing a CED policy on websites posting evaluations of individual dentists and to send a questionnaire to CED Members about national best practices in eHome and eConsultation, on the basis of which a workshop could be organised in the second half of the year. WG members also further elaborated CED policy on data protection. WG eHealth is expected to schedule its next online meeting in April.

WG MEDICAL DEVICES

WG Medical Devices met on 22 January 2013 in Brussels to draft CED amendments on the [Commission's proposal for a Regulation on Medical Devices](#). Participants agreed to support measures to increase transparency and information on custom-made devices, restrict application to UDI requirements to highest risk medical devices and alert decision makers on the provisions on nanomaterials which would result in the majority of dental materials being classified as highest risk, Class III materials. WG Medical Devices also discussed latest developments in European standardisation and the anticipated Recommendation on the European

Unique Device Identification (UDI) system which was expected to be published shortly.

WG ORAL HEALTH

On 24 January 2013, WG Oral Health held an online meeting. WG members supported the decision to maintain the European Oral Health Day on 12 September and exchanged first ideas for the theme of the Day. They agreed to send a questionnaire to CED Members on economic and epidemiological data related to oral health and to start preparing CED position on [the Commission's proposal for the Tobacco Products Directive](#). They were also informed about the preparations for the I2-FRESCO project to which the CED will contribute on the issue of physical frailty, and specifically on the role of dentists in contributing to patient literacy on preventing this condition.

CED BOARD TASK FORCES (BTF)

BTF COMMUNICATIONS

In January 2013, CED issued in its first [Annual Report](#), bringing together CED resolutions, press releases and newsletters issued in 2012. CED President Dr Wolfgang Doneus thanked all CED members for excellent collaboration in 2012 and looked forward to working together with friends and partners to continue to make the voice of dentists heard in European politics and to promote good oral Health of Europeans in 2013.

BTF INTERNAL MARKET

BTF Internal Market (IM) held an online meeting under the leadership of its new chair Dr Alexander Tolmeijer on 7 December 2012 to discuss issues related to the General Data Protection Regulation. BTF IM members agreed that the CED should propose amendments to the Commission's proposal in connection to consent, right to be

forgotten and administrative fines. They also supported the possibility for the CED to participate in the Healthcare Coalition on Data Protection.

In January, BTF IM was repeatedly consulted in connection to the Professional Qualifications Directive and contributed to the CED's activities on this important piece of legislation.

CED BRUSSELS OFFICE

NEW POLICY OFFICER

Aleksandra Sanak, the new Policy Officer, started working in the CED Brussels Office in January. Aleksandra, who is Polish and has most recently worked as a Senior EU Affairs Communications Officer for Europe Direct Contact Centre in Brussels, will be replacing Sara Roda until her return from maternity leave in September.

In January, Aleksandra already represented the CED in meetings on data protection with MEP Axel Voss on 29 and with MEP Rebecca Taylor on 31 January.

Meanwhile, we are glad to announce that Sara gave birth to a healthy baby boy on 25 January. Congratulations!

SECTION II – CED WORKING GROUPS

PATIENT SAFETY (WG PS)

HISTORY

WG PS was first established in May 2007 in London with the aim of contributing to EU initiatives on patient safety. WG PS prepared a [CED resolution on patient safety](#) which was adopted unanimously by the CED General Meeting in May 2008. The resolution stressed the dental profession's commitment to providing safe dental care, minimising risks and establishing an open culture of patient safety where practitioners can learn from their own and others' experiences. Action to improve patient safety should take

into account the various healthcare settings.

CED General Meeting further adopted a [reflection paper on Quality of Healthcare: Policy Actions at EU Level](#) in May 2010.

The current mandate of the WG was adopted by the CED General Meeting in May 2010 when Prof. Dr Wolfgang Sprekels was appointed chair.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Since 2010, WG PS has continued to monitor and to participate in the European Commission's Working Group on Patient Safety and Quality of Care and to develop closer contacts and long-term relationships with Members of the European Parliament interested in patient safety and with representatives of patients at EU level. The WG has prepared a briefing paper, summarizing CED position on patient safety to serve as support to CED member organizations in their contacts with national authorities. Finally, WG PS has focused on contributing to the European Union Network on Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ) Joint Action.

JOINT ACTION ON PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF CARE

[European Union Network on Patient Safety and Quality of Care \(PaSQ\) Joint Action](#) commenced in April 2012 and will run until the end of March 2015. The aim of the Joint Action is to support the implementation of the 2009 Council Recommendation on Patient Safety and to create a permanent platform for future cooperation between Member States in the area of patient safety and quality of care. PaSQ has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme

The CED participates in the PaSQ Joint Action as an Associate Member and its contribution focuses on submitting descriptions of good practices

in patient safety at clinical level (in the dental office). This task is the responsibility of WG PS, with the support of CED Brussels Office.

After agreement on the questionnaire and procedure for collecting good practices, WG PS encouraged CED members during the CED General Meeting in November 2012 to submit practices implemented in dentistry. WG PS is prepared to provide further support and clarifications to national dental associations who are willing to contribute. Additional written instructions for submission of practices were sent to CED members after the General Meeting, with reminders to individual potential contributors being sent in the second half of January.

WHO MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

WG members are at the heart of CED policy. WG PS has 11 members from 10 Member States. Among these are:

- **Prof. Dr Wolfgang Sprekels** – CED WG Chair, Germany;
- **Prof. Dr Nicolai Sharkov**, CED Board member and Board liaison, Vice-President of the Bulgarian Dental Association, President-Elect of the Balkan Stomatological Society, dental practitioner, Bulgaria;
- **Dr Edoardo Cavallé**, ANDI - Associazione Nazionale Dentisti Italiani, Italy;
- **Dr Stefaan Hanson**, dental practitioner and Executive Director of the Flemish Dental Association, Chief Dental Officer, Belgium;
- **Dr Peter Kurz**, Germany;
- **Dr José Laredo de Sousa**, Portugal,
- **Prof. Dr Patricia Manarte Monteiro**, Portugal,
- **Dr Bernard Munnix**, CSD, Belgium;
- **Dr Matti Pöyry**, Finland,
- **Dr Gerhard Seeberger**, AIO, Italy and,
- **Dr Patrick Weyland**, Luxembourg.

SECTION III – CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF BZÄK ELECTS A NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

On 9 November 2012, the Federal Assembly of the German Dental Association (BZÄK) elected a new Executive Board.

Once again, the delegates chose Dr Peter Engel as president of the German Dental Association. Professor Dietmar Oesterreich, President of the Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania Dental Association, and Professor Christoph Benz, President of the Bavarian Dental Association, were re-elected as vice presidents.

The Federal Assembly also voted in a new chairman of the assembly and thanked the previous chairman, Dr Hans-Hermann Liepe, for his services. Dr Thomas Breyer, Vice President of the Saxony Dental Association, will now chair the federal assembly with the support of two deputy chairmen, Dr Kai Voss and Dr Wolfgang Grüner, who were also re-elected.

Contributed by BZÄK

AUTUMN INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP IN PRAGUE

As part of its largest educational event, the Prague Dental Days, the Czech Dental Chamber also traditionally organises international workshops.

To what extent should dental care be financed from health insurance? That was the topic of the workshop held in Prague in October 2012.

Some interesting discussions took place there with the participation of representatives of European dental associations, specifically from Austria, Estonia, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. Workshop participants briefly described the systems of dental care financing from public

health insurance in their respective countries.

On the basis of the contributions presented and the discussion, the participants in the international workshop agreed on the following conclusions:

1. A direct relationship between the doctor and the patient is a priority, regardless of the method of financing the care provided.
2. Priority number one is prevention, which must be supported using all ways and means (the State, health insurance companies, municipalities, foundations, etc.).
3. Support and provisions for care for children and disabled patients are necessary and should preferentially be financed from public health insurance.
4. Despite the existing differences in the various European countries, the options to finance dental care from public health insurance have almost been exhausted. The systems of financing need to be changed.

The Czech Dental Chamber extends sincere thanks to all the participants in the workshop for their active attendance and believes that they will also accept its invitation to the forthcoming annual editions of the Czech Dental Chamber's traditional autumn international event.

Contributed by Dr Jan Černý, Vice-President of Czech Dental Chamber

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