



## **CED PRESS RELEASE OF 22 NOVEMBER 2011**

# **CED: THE VOICE OF DENTISTS AND ORAL HEALTH IN EUROPE FOR 50 YEARS**

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**Representatives of the Council of European (CED) member and observer organisations, meeting in Brussels on 18 November 2011 for a regular six-monthly General Meeting, commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CED and adopted positions on dental amalgam and on infection control.**

Speaking at a reception on the evening before the General Meeting, CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus recalled that the CED was initially established in 1961 as the Dental Liaison Committee (DLC) with the purpose to provide the European Commission with expertise on dentistry-related issues. Dr. Doneus paid homage to the founding members of the DLC, including to the DLC's first president Dr. Jean Jardiné from France, who continues to be active in dental circles.

Among its initial steps, the DLC developed a position on equivalency of dental diplomas and qualifications of then six EU Member States, an issue which is still high on the agenda of the CED today. Over the years, the range of issues of interest has expanded to finally encompass all major questions related to the work of dentists and to the state of oral health in Europe. The maturation of the CED as a political organisation culminated in the adoption of amended statutes in 2002, under which the body was renamed the Council of European Dentists, and in the establishment of an independent CED Office in 2009.

The CED is today a fully autonomous political body, completely independent in all its work from the interests of the European Institutions, national governments and the industry, and provides an authentic voice for practising European dentists in EU politics. The CED represents over 334,000 dentists and is composed of 32 national dental associations and chambers from 30 European countries.

In conclusion, Dr. Doneus expressed particular gratitude to BZÄK, the CED's German member organisation, for providing logistical and staff support to the CED in Brussels until the establishments of the CED's Office. He also wished farewell to Dr. Claus Munck, a CED delegate from Denmark who was attending his last CED General Meeting.

### **RESPONSIBLE PRACTICE ON DENTAL AMALGAM**

During the General Meeting, CED members unanimously agreed on a number of responsible practices for dentists, aimed at minimizing the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam. These include using amalgam separators which respect ISO standards and are well-maintained and serviced. Dentists were encouraged to use only encapsulated amalgam and to fully comply with waste management regulations, particularly Directive 2008/96/EC on waste. Proper separation of amalgam waste should be ensured and the disposal should be carried out only by licensed carriers, leading to appropriate recycling.

European dentists also recommend more research to be carried out on alternative materials used in dentistry, as the scientific community is not yet fully able to demonstrate their relative risks.

**Background information:** The CED adopted on 19 November 2010 [a resolution on dental amalgam](#), stressing that amalgam is a safe and highly effective restorative material. The worldwide consensus of the dental profession is that amalgam should remain part of the dentist's armoury as it continues to be the most appropriate filling material for many dental restorations due to its ease of use, durability and cost-effectiveness.

The European Commission is currently reviewing the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam in line with [the review of the Community Strategy Concerning Mercury](#) and with [the Council Conclusions of 14 March 2011](#). The CED shares the position of the European Commission that any further action should be based on concrete information and sound data and is contributing to the review.

**CED Resolution: [Responsible practice](#)**

## **INFECTION CONTROL CODE**

CED members adopted the CED Infection Control Code, laying out the principles all dentists should adhere to in order to prevent and reduce infections in dental settings. The resolution stressed the overall responsibility of the dentists as the leader of the dental team to implement the relevant decontamination, cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, waste management and a wide range of hygienic procedures necessary for ensuring the safety of patients and of the members of the dental team.

**CED Resolution: [Infection Control Code](#)**

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