



## **CED PRESS RELEASE OF 26 NOVEMBER 2013**

### **EUROPEAN DENTISTS RE-ELECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, UPDATE POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM AND WELCOME THE ADOPTION OF REVISED PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE**

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Representatives of CED member and observer organisations met in Brussels, Belgium on 22 November 2013 for a regular six-monthly General Meeting, under the chairmanship of CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus.

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 340,000 practising dentists through 32 national dental associations and chambers from 30 European countries. Its key objectives are to promote high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred professional practice across Europe, including through regular contacts with other European organisations and EU institutions.

#### **CED BOARD ELECTIONS**

Dr. Susie Sanderson (United Kingdom) was re-elected to the position of CED Treasurer for another three-year term. Dr. Peter Engel (Germany), Dr. Pirkko Grönroos (Finland) and Dr. Roland L'Herron (France) were re-elected as Directors.

They join the current CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus (Austria), Vice-President and Director Dr. Marco Landi (Italy) and Directors Dr. Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria) and Dr. Alexander Tolmeijer (The Netherlands).

CED Board of Directors is composed of eight members who must be dental practitioners and share the powers of administration of the organisation, including communication and representation of the CED towards third parties, in particular the European Institutions, as well as implementation of CED policy and financial management.

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF CROATIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION IN THE CED**

Following Croatia's accession to the European Union on 1 July 2013, the Croatian Dental Chamber requested to become a full member in the CED. The CED members unanimously approved the request.

#### **CED UPDATED POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM**

In light of the Minamata Convention on mercury signed on 10 October 2013, the CED Members adopted a position on the Convention in which they reaffirm their continued engagement in encouraging the reduction of the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam and acknowledge with appreciation the progress achieved in Europe in this area, and now worldwide.

The CED believes that the signing of a globally-binding treaty on the use of mercury is a sensible outcome that recognises the practicalities of improving oral health. For many years, the CED has stressed the importance of avoiding a complete phase-out of the use of mercury in dentistry, particularly in a short timeframe.

The CED also welcomes the flexible approach adopted to take into account countries domestic circumstances. We believe that the treaty reaches a good balance between the use of amalgam and non-mercury based materials.

The CED further welcomes the measures which encourage research and development of non-mercury based materials. The CED has noted that the scientific community is not yet fully able to demonstrate the relative emerging risks of the use of alternative materials and that the toxicology of these materials is a work in progress. The CED strongly supports research based evidence and research based decisions.

Following the signature of the Minamata Convention, the CED Members also updated resolutions on dental amalgam and on responsible practice accordingly stressing that costs for alternative filling materials will likely be higher than for dental amalgam.

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.

On 18 November 2011, the CED adopted [a resolution on responsible practice](#) aimed at minimizing the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam. The resolution also recommended more research to be carried out on alternative materials used in dentistry.

[CED Position on the Minamata Convention concerning dental amalgam](#)

[CED Resolution on environmental management of dental materials: responsible practice – 2013 update](#)

[CED Resolution on dental amalgam – 2013 update](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE**

CED Members welcomed the final adoption of the revised Professional Qualifications Directive by the EU Council on 15 November 2013. The main features concerning the dental profession include basic dental training comprising at least five years of study, which may in addition be expressed with the equivalent ECTS credits and consisting of at least 5 000 hours of full-time theoretical and practical training, possibility for Member States to refuse partial access to the profession on the grounds of public health concerns, obligation for Member States' competent authorities to alert, through a specific alert mechanism, the authorities of other Member States about professionals who are no longer entitled to practice as a result of a disciplinary action or criminal conviction, and possibility for Member States' competent authorities to conduct language controls in order to verify that professionals are in possession of necessary language skills.

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