

# CED ACTIVITIES INFO

Issue 4 – October 2013

COUNCIL OF  
EUROPEAN DENTISTS



## Introduction

*This fourth newsletter of the year takes a closer look at **CED Working Group Infection Control & Waste Management**. 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 ACTIVITIES

### CED PRESIDENT

#### CNSD SUMMER UNIVERSITY

On 20-22 September 2013, **CED President, Dr Wolfgang Doneus**, travelled to Côte d'Azur to attend the Summer University organised by **Confédération nationale des syndicats dentaires (CNSD)**. The event which gathered more than 400 dentists from across Europe and overseas was focused on the theme 'Europe and dentists'. The President presented the final outcome of the triologue negotiations on the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD) ahead of the European Parliament's vote in plenary on 9 October.

#### BZAK EUROPEAN DAY

On 18 September 2013, **CED President, Dr Wolfgang Doneus**, participated as a keynote speaker in the 8<sup>th</sup> European Day organized in Brussels by **Bundeszahnärztekammer (BZÄK)**. The theme of this year's European Day was 'Curing the crisis: liberal professions driver for economic growth'. The participants debated the role liberal professions can play in stabilising Europe's labour market and how to contribute to managing the crisis.

#### EESC PUBLIC HEARING

**CED President, Dr Wolfgang Doneus**, attended on 24 September 2013 a public hearing on 'The role and future of liberal professions in the European civil

society 2020' organised in Brussels by the **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**. The President presented the CED draft charter for liberal professions adopted by the CED General Meeting on 23 November 2012. He stressed that liberal professions can be an instrument for stabilisation to help economy get through difficult times.

### CED BOARD MEETING

#### MEETING ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2013

On 13 September 2013, the **CED Board of Directors met in Brussels** for its regular quarterly meeting. During the meeting, the Board members reviewed CED political activities since their May meeting and discussed current political developments related to the PQD, the Medical Devices Regulation and the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Board discussed the current work and a number of initiatives by CED working bodies in preparation of the November General Meeting in Brussels. They reviewed CED finances, the update of the CED Manual of Dental Practice and the CED communications activities.

### CED WORKING GROUPS (WG)

#### WG AMALGAM AND OTHER RESTORATIVE MATERIALS

**WG Amalgam and Other Restorative Materials** scheduled its next meeting in London on 15 October 2013. WG members will continue

discussing the UNEP Convention on Mercury which is planned to be signed in October 2013 and the CED Resolutions on responsible practice and on dental amalgam to see whether these require a revision in light of the Convention.

#### WG EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Former WG member, **Ms Barbara Bergmann-Krauss**, attended on 1 July and 2 October 2013 the meetings of the **ESCO Reference Group "Health-care and social work activities"**. The Reference Group is currently working on definitions of competences for different professions.

A consortium composed of CED, CPME (leader), EFN, EMA, EPHA and PGEU **won a European tender regarding the review and mapping of continuous professional development (CPD) and life-long learning for health professionals in the EU and EEA/EFTA countries**. The project aims at exploring the existing evidence base of CPD practices and identifying emerging trends to provide a more comprehensive European overview. The representatives of the consortium will meet in the coming weeks in Luxembourg with the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers to sign the contract and launch the project which will last for 12 months in total.

#### WG EHEALTH

**WG eHealth** will meet in Amsterdam on 18 October 2013. WG mem-



bers will further discuss the development of a CED policy on websites posting evaluations of dentists, the CED contribution to the IHTSDO's (International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation) Dental Special Interest Group, the cooperation with EPSOS (Smart Open Services for European Patients) project and the eHealth Stakeholders Group. The meeting will be preceded by a workshop on eHome and eConsultation.

## WG MEDICAL DEVICES

On 9 July 2013, **WG member, Dr Stefaan Hanson and CED Policy Officer, Aleksandra Sanak, attended the [Medical Devices Expert Group](#) meeting** in Brussels. During the meeting various legislative issues and initiatives as well as main activities of Working Groups and Work Programme for 2013 were discussed.

## WG INFECTION CONTROL & WASTE MANAGEMENT

**WG met in Copenhagen on 27 September 2013** to discuss several issues related to infection control and waste management. For further information see Section II of this newsletter.

## WG PATIENT SAFETY

The **3<sup>rd</sup> coordination meeting of stakeholders involved in the Joint Action on Patient Safety and Quality of Care (PaSQ) will take place on 17-18 October 2013 in Paris and will be attended by a representative of the CED Office.** PaSQ receives funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme, and the CED is an associated partner.

## CED BOARD TASK FORCES (BTF)

### BTF COMMUNICATIONS

In September 2013, **CED has become a full member of the Federation of European and International Associations Established in Belgium (FAIB).** FAIB is a non-

profit, non-political association that promotes and defends the interests and activities of its members by drawing attention of the authorities to the existence of international associations in Belgium, and to the need for facilitating their activities.

## CED BRUSSELS OFFICE

### EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM

On 11 September 2013, **Aleksandra Sanak attended a meeting of the EU Health Policy Forum**, a group through which health stakeholders receive updates and provide input to the European Commission on health policy. The meeting featured presentations by the Commission, the Lithuanian and Greek Presidencies on health related issues and on the revision of Tobacco Products Directive and the future Medical Devices Regulation.

## SECTION II – CED WORKING GROUPS

### INFECTION CONTROL & WASTE MANAGEMENT (WG IC&WM)

#### HISTORY

WG IC&WM was established in May 2004 to develop CED policy on infection control and medical waste management. The first resolution prepared by the WG was on decontamination, cleaning disinfection, sterilization, waste management and other hygienic procedures, and was adopted in May 2009. It compiled 24 voluntary recommendations for basic procedures to be followed by dentists and members of the dental team in dental practices. This [resolution](#) was amended in November 2011 with the objective of only focusing on principles rather than putting forth specific recommendations due to the constant scientific progress in this area. The resolution calls on dentists to stay updated on and to use recent research findings on hygienic procedures as part of continuous professional development. It stresses the need to follow

national regulations, and alerts to the commercial interests underlying certain regulations.

### WG MANDATE

The WG remit includes, among other topics, monitoring EU legislation on infection control and waste management, helping with issues that might arise from the increasing mobility of patients and healthcare providers in order to fulfil infection control regulations, improving patient confidence in infection control protocols and procedures carried out in dental practices, and cooperating with other European organisations whose competences relate to infection control.

### CURRENT ACTIVITY

Between 2009 and 2010, the WG followed the Commission's proposal to implement the [Framework Agreement on prevention from sharp injuries in the hospital and healthcare sector concluded by HOSPEEM and EPSU](#) as well as related policies on medical devices marketed for single-use.

At present, the WG is working on the following topics:

- quality of water and dental units waterline;
- waste management practices: upgrading existing protocols (sharp objects, sponges, X-rays fixing and developing liquids, amalgam traps, decommissioned X-rays units & surgical suction, plumbing and hoses replacement);
- policies on protection against injuries from sharp objects;
- follow-up on the [Council Recommendation of 9 June 2009 on patient safety, including the prevention and control of healthcare associated](#);
- infection control modules in the curricula of European Dental Schools;
- infection control policy for new technology devices, units and instruments.

### WHO MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

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

- **Prof Dr John Tzoutzas** – CED WG Chair and Associate Professor in Operative Dentistry, School of Dentistry, University of Athens,

Hellenic Dental Association, Greece;

- **Dr Alexander Tolmeijer**, CED Board liaison, dentist and lawyer, Dutch Dental Association – NMT, Netherlands;
- **Dr Susanne Anderson**, dentist, Danish Dental Association, Denmark;
- **Dr Rodos Irodotou**, dentist, Cyprus Dental Association, Cyprus;
- **Prof Dr Matjaž Rode**, MDD, PhD, Professor in the Department of Clinical Oral Pathology, Medical Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia, former Vice-President of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia;
- **Dr Anna Spialek**, dentist, Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists, Poland;
- **Dr Elita Vinogradova**, dentist, Latvian Dental Association, Latvia.

### SECTION III – CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

#### NATIONAL CLINICAL GUIDELINES IN DENMARK

The Danish Health and Medicines Authority issued this month a draft for national clinical guidelines regarding dental examination intervals. All patients are to be placed in three different groups depending on their risk profile - one green, one yellow and one red group. It is, of course, the aim that as many patients as possible will, eventually, be placed in the green group.

The guidelines will mean an increased pressure on resources allocated to dental care because even though some patient groups should be examined less often, a large proportion of patients should be examined more frequently. Furthermore, some examinations should cover more aspects than they do now.

The Danish Dental Association estimates that the guidelines will require new funding between 40 and 106 EUR million. The large span in this estimate is due to an uncertainty about how many patients will

be placed in each risk group.

The Danish Dental Association welcomes the fact that there is now a well-documented basis for national clinical guidelines regarding dental examination intervals. We are, however, extremely concerned about the fact that many of our patients may have to pay more for their examinations in the future. We have, thus, recommended that the Minister of Health allocates the resources needed to implement the guidelines.

At the moment it remains unclear how the situation evolves.

**Contributed by the Danish Dental Association**

#### EUROPEAN DAY OF ORAL HEALTH

The Medical Chamber of Slovenia has honoured the European day of oral health on 12th of September 2013 by launching several communication activities. Our goal was to support media and decision makers on spreading an awareness of European day of oral health.

The activities included:

- a template press release to local and national media;
- reaching positive publicity through the media and with background information;
- designing a poster that was distributed and published in Medical chamber of Slovenia;
- designing a banner for web page of Medical chamber of Slovenia;
- a letter to government officials with information about European day of oral health;
- publishing a special newsletter to 7000 doctors and dentists;
- publishing an article in Isis – the (professional public) journal of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia.

**Contributed by the Medical Chamber of Slovenia**

#### 2013 – THE YEAR OF COMBATING HEAD AND NECK CANCER: CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE DENTAL PRACTITIONERS' COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH SUPREME CHAMBER OF PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

Dental practitioners form the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists continue their activities aimed at raising public awareness of the significance of oral health as part of general health. Among numerous other actions, the annual conference held at the Supreme Chamber's premises in Warsaw is the main event in this field. The conference traditionally gathers leading dental and medical practitioners of various specialties, academics, researchers, representatives of mass media and health administration.

The 2013 Conference is scheduled for 17 October - a number of renowned lecturers (medical doctors and dental practitioners) will deliver presentations regarding various aspects of managing patients with head and neck cancer.

The main aim is to underline the crucial role of dentists in prevention and early diagnosis. Dentists should not only be responsible for the current therapeutic and prophylactic dental needs of their patients. A dental examination is a perfect opportunity to detect many other health problems. A lot of systemic diseases have oral manifestations, and can be diagnosed at the dental office. Dentists are often healthcare professionals of first contact – many people are likely to see a dentist, even just for a check-up, more often than their GP or other specialist.

Following precious advice from other countries again particular attention is paid to proper public dissemination of the information presented at the Conference – it is planned to draw the attention of leading Polish mass media.

**Contributed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists**

## **FRANCE: EUROPE ON THE AGENDA OF THE CNSD SUMMER UNIVERSITY**

Summer University of CNSD, an exceptional, large-scale event, took place on 20-22 September 2013 on Côte d'Azur; it gathered almost 400 dentists from 100 mainland and overseas French departments as well as from across Europe.

"Europe and dentists", a seemingly unattractive theme, fascinated the colleagues who are becoming increasingly aware of the involvement of Brussels when exercising the profession on a day-to-day basis.

During three days, the participants had the opportunity to listen, participate and debate in the sessions on education and training, on problems arising from the free movement and on health systems in Europe (from strongly social systems in Germany and France to rampant ultra liberalism in Spain and Italy) and on economic conditions of practice.

The quality of European speakers raised a lot of enthusiasm among the participants. The Council of European Dentists (CED) was strongly represented, notably by the President Dr Wolfgang Doneus (Austria), but also by many members of the CED Board and CED Working Groups. ERO and FDI were present as well.

On Sunday morning, a debate with participation of Ms Nora Berra, Member of the European Parliament and former Secretary of State for Health in France raised a fundamental question: isn't Europe going too fast? Are the European Union authorities protecting the professionals and their patients or are they rather looking into de-regulation at any price in order to revive the economy?

More details, speeches and videos from this exceptional event are available on CNSD website: [www.cnsd.fr](http://www.cnsd.fr).

**Contributed by Confédération nationale des syndicats dentaires**

## **ACTIVITIES OF AIO**

The AIO, Associazione Italiana Odontoiatri (Italian Dental Association), has a strong identity in the Italian dental landscape. For many years AIO has been organising activities at different levels aimed at protecting the profession as well as at promoting oral health. Recently, the campaign "Allies in Prevention" led across the country contributed to the dissemination of guidelines of the Ministry of Health on the prevention of oral diseases.

ISO 9011 certified, our association helped nearly 8,000 dentists to obtain their mandatory continuing education credits (ECM) in 2012 by organising 250 certified courses and conferences at moderate costs but of high ethical and professional value.

Moreover, the AIO actively participates in various events organized by other associations in Europe; the latest one was the 5th Summer University organized by CNSD on 20-22 September 2013 on the theme "Europe and dentists" during which a roundtable was held gathering oral health professionals from different European countries as well as French political figures with a view to analysing and comparing the main systems of dental care in Europe.

Our association is also active beyond European borders and its representatives will be present at the next New York Greater Dental Meeting and the Midwinter Meeting in Chicago.

**Contributed by Associazione Italiana Odontoiatri.**

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