

CED ACTIVITIES INFO

Issue 4 – October 2012

COUNCIL OF
EUROPEAN DENTISTS



Introduction

*This issue is the third in a series of newsletters which take a closer look at CED Working Groups and Board Task Forces, their policy priorities for 2012-2013 and, most importantly, the experts that make their work possible. This edition is dedicated to the **CED Working Group Tooth Whitening**. 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

LETTER TO COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT VIVIANE REDING

On 1 August, **CED President Wolfgang Doneus** wrote to the **Commission Vice-President responsible for justice, fundamental rights and citizenship Viviane Redding** requesting clarification on certain provisions of the [Commission's proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation](#), in particular, on the impact that this Regulation will have on micro, small and medium sized enterprises. The CED is still waiting for a response which was promised to be delivered soon.

On 5 September, **the CED President travelled to Brussels** to meet with MEP Emma McClarkin, ECR's shadow rapporteur for the Professional Qualification Directive (PQD) in the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) to present the CED position on the PQD. Several points were discussed, including the risks of having tacit recognition in the Directive (Article 4d/5 of the Commission's proposal on the PQD) and the minimum duration of training for dental practitioners, where the CED favours the introduction of the dual criteria in the PQD (5 years and 5000 hours of full-time theoretical and practical training) and a reference to 300 ECTS. The President

also attended the event of the Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe organised in the European Parliament, hosted by MEPs Karin Kadenbach (S&D, Austria) and Cristian Buşoi (ALDE, Romania), where the report on the [State of Oral Health in Europe](#) was presented.

CED BOARD

MEETING ON 14 SEPTEMBER

On 14 March, **the CED Board of Directors met in Brussels** for its regular quarterly meeting. During the meeting, CED Board members reviewed CED political activities since their May meeting and discussed current political developments related to the PQD, the Review of the Community Strategy concerning Mercury, tooth whitening products, the Medical Devices Regulation, the UDI System and the General Data Protection Regulation.

The Board approved a number of initiatives by CED working bodies in preparation of the November CED General Meeting in Brussels, such as the draft CED Resolution on eHealth and the CED participation in the I2-FRESCO Project (Integrated intervention against physical frailty) - Work Stream 1 on Health Literacy led by CPME. They reviewed CED finances, discussed the draft CED budget for 2013, the update of the CED Manual of Dental Practice and the CED communi-

cations activities.

CED WORKING GROUPS (WG)

WG AMALGAM AND OTHER RESTORATIVE MATERIALS

On 10 October, **the CED replied to calls for information** of the Scientific Committee for Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks ([SCENIHR](#)) on the safety of the use of dental amalgam and its substitutes and of the Scientific Committee for Health and Environmental Risks ([SCHER](#)) on the environmental risks and indirect health effects of mercury in dental amalgam. These calls were launched to assist both Scientific Committees in the update of their opinions on dental amalgam issued in 2008 (see [SCENIHR](#) and [SCHER](#) mandates). Further information will be provided during the CED General Meeting in November.

On 22 October, **WG chair Susie Sanderson, CED member Stuart Johnston and CED policy officer Sara Roda met two EU officials from the European Commission's DG Health and Consumers (DG SANCO)** to discuss and understand, among other issues, the future EU position on dental amalgam in the [Community Strategy Concerning Mercury](#) and for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) currently developing a global treaty on mercury. The CED was able to explain that prevention



COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS (formerly EU Dental Liaison Committee)

President Dr Wolfgang Doneus

T +32 (0)2 736 34 29

F +32 (0)2 740 20 26

ced@eudental.eu

www.eudental.eu

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is the way forward to reduce the use of dental amalgam in Member States. The gap identified by the CED (and also by the FDI) was that Member States are only focusing on the disease (caries), instead of working on how to reduce the disease. The CED also stressed that dental amalgam should remain part of the dentist's armoury in order to best meet the needs of patients. Dental amalgam continues to be the most appropriate filling material for many restorations and the quality of alternatives needs to be further improved for use in public dental care.

WG EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

On 18-19 September, **former WG member Ms. Barbara Bergmann-Krauss attended the second meeting of the ESCO Reference Group (RG) "Healthcare and social work activities"** as an expert and on behalf of the CED. The aim of this project is a job-matching web application for competences. The RG will have to prepare a 1st draft sectorial breakdown (typical organization of the healthcare sector as a kind of navigator in order to search for vacant jobs) by 15 November. RG members will have to provide, among others, the definition of each occupation, the entry-level education / qualifications for each occupation / profession, and a list of core skills and competences.

On 19 September, **WG member Alfred Büttner and CED policy officer Sara Roda met with MEP Andreas Schwab** (EPP, Germany) to present and discuss the CED position on the PQD. Mr Schwab was interested in hearing, among other issues, the CED views on rendering the delegated acts regime more transparent and on bringing speed and efficiency to the European Professional Card procedure without jeopardising patient safety (tacit recognition regime).

The CED has afterwards called

for the creation of an Expert Group composed of experts from national authorities, professional organisations at both European and national level, representatives of academia and social partners to provide advice and expertise to the Commission in the preparation of delegated acts. In connection with the tacit recognition regime, the CED has suggested the exemption of the healthcare sector as tacit recognition can endanger the lives of patients or the suspension of the deadline in case of justified doubts.

On 17 October **Alfred Büttner and Sara Roda met with MEP Birgit Collin-Langen** (EPP, Germany), to present the CED position on the PQD, highlighting certain aspects that could be improved in the Commission's proposal on the PQD. **Sara Roda also met with the assistant to MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen** (EPP, IMCO's Vice-Chair, Finland), on 4 October, also to present the CED position on the PQD.

On 24 October, **the CED-ADEE Task Force met again to discuss the new draft Annex 5.3.1 of the PQD**. The Task Force introduced several amendments in the document with the objective to shorten it and better adapt it to a future legislative document. The Task Force will meet again in March 2013 to conclude the draft Annex, which is expected to be submitted to the CED General meeting in May 2013. The Task Force also discussed and decided on the general structure of the document which will accompany the draft Annex. The purpose of this accompanying document is to explain certain concepts as well as to justify the shift from subjects to competences in the draft Annex. The Task Force further agreed to prepare a joint letter or statement requesting MEPs' support to vote favourably certain amendments to the Commission's proposal to amend the PQD, in particular on the minimum duration of training for

dental practitioners to be expressed in years (5 years), hours (5000 hours) and ECTS credits (300 ECTS).

WG EHEALTH

On 18 September, **WG chair Piret Väli attended the third meeting of the eHealth Stakeholders Group** as an expert and on behalf of the CED. This Group discussed the ongoing actions of the eHealth Action Plan (the CED is part of the interoperability subgroup), as well as on the agreed actions for 2013 (the CED intends to participate on Workforce/skills issues). At the moment, three more meetings are foreseen, two of which would take place in Brussels, and one at eHealth Week in Dublin during the period 13-15 May 2013

On 20 September, **the WG met online** to discuss the current activities of the WG and decide on the WG's next priorities. Among other issues, the WG agreed that the CED should participate at the Dental SIG meeting in Stockholm (see below) and to focus on common strategy information to patients in relation to the initiatives on the Use of Technology for Remote Consultation (eConsultation) and Patient Monitoring in the Home (eHome).

On 24 October, **WG members Eric Delaeter and Jørn Jorgensen attended the Dental SIG meeting** during the [IHSTDO](#) Conference in Stockholm. This SIG intends to meet regularly to develop the dental part of SNOMED-CT. SNOMED-CT is a standardised health terminology that represents clinical concepts in a consistent and comprehensive way in health records. The focus is on enabling the implementation of semantically accurate health records that are interoperable.

WG INFECTION CONTROL

On 28 September, **WG Infection Control met in Gdansk, Poland**, to discuss, among other issues, the information collected on legionella

incidents and recommended techniques to deal with this issue, the results of the CED questionnaire on legionella pneumophila in dental settings, the current Member States' developments on infection control trends and policies, and the WG's mandate which will be submitted to the November CED General Meeting for approval.

WG ORAL HEALTH

On 26 June, **WG Oral Health met in Brussels**, immediately after the CED's "[Healthy mouth, healthy living, healthy ageing](#)" event in the European Parliament. They regretted that the event was not attended by more MEPs but were satisfied that it launched important discussions about the correlation between general and oral health in the context of ageing and the need for cooperation between different health professions. They agreed that it would be important to encourage national dental associations to organise similar events at national level.

On 15 October 2012, **WG Oral Health met online** to prepare the draft mandate for its future work, to be adopted by the CED General Meeting in November.

CED BOARD TASK FORCES (BTF)

BTF ANTIBIOTICS IN DENTISTRY

On 24 September 2012, **BTF chair Susie Sanderson and CED head of office Nina Bernot met with Head of Disease Programme, Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-associated infections (ARHAI) Dominique Monnet and Group Leader in Public Health Capacity & Communication Unit Giovanni Mancarella from the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#) (ECDC)**. The meeting was organised at the request of the ECDC and focused on the activities planned in support

of the [European Antibiotic Awareness Day 2012](#) and the opportunities for cooperation with the CED. In 2012, the European Antibiotic Awareness Day will be highlighted with a press event in Brussels on 16 November and a Twitter chat with an ECDC expert on 20 November; the CED encourages its members to participate and promote both activities.

BTF COMMUNICATIONS

On 22 October, **BTF Communications met in Brussels** to discuss CED communications activities. BTF Communications reviewed the activities carried out under the current Communications Annual Work Plan and decided to recommend to the General Meeting that the final report for the year should be submitted during the November meeting to inform the adoption of next year's Work Plan. They also finalised the draft Annual Work Plan for 2013 and discussed the next update of the EU Manual of Dental Practice.

BTF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

On 14 September, **BTF Liberal Professions met in Brussels** to prepare the CED's response to the European Commission's [consultation on entrepreneurship](#). The CED's response, sent to CED members on 24 September, stressed the importance of liberal professions such as dentists and suggested that the provisions supporting entrepreneurs should also take into account the specific situation of liberal professions. The consultation will feed into the Commission's Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan.

CED COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

On 21 September 2012, the **CED Brussels Office hosted the first meeting of CED Communications Officers** – persons responsible for

communications in national dental associations. Fifteen participants from ten different countries attended the meeting which included a visit to the European Parliament, a presentation of CED policy and structures and a discussion with a guest speaker from the European Commission's DG Internal Market, Ms Nevena Mateeva, on the PQD. Communications Officers advised the CED Office on CED communications issues and exchanged national experience with communicating dentistry-related messages. The meeting was seen as very useful by the participants and another such meeting is planned next year.

CED BRUSSELS OFFICE

JOINT ACTION ON HEALTH WORKFORCE

On 28 September 2012, **Nina Bernot and Sara Roda attended a preparatory meeting of the Joint Action on Health Workforce Forecasting and Planning in Brussels**. The Joint Action is expected to officially start in December 2012 and will focus on quantitative and qualitative planning of health workforce. The CED will contribute to the Joint Action particularly in the work package on qualitative planning and horizon scanning which will discuss future health needs and consequently skills and competences of health workforce. Within the CED, BTF Internal Market, WG Education and WG Oral Health will be asked to provide advice for CED input into the Joint Action.

JOINT ACTION ON PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF CARE

On 3 October 2012, **Nina Bernot and Sara Roda participated on behalf of CED WG Patient Safety in a meeting of the Joint Action on Patient Safety and Quality of Care in Madrid**. The CED participates in the Joint Action as an associated partner in the work pack-

age on identifying, assessing and sharing best clinical practices on the local clinical level where patient and health professionals interact. Practices are expected to be collected through an online questionnaire which will be active from November 2012 and CED members will be informed about the possibilities for contribution.

MEETING DG JUSTICE AND DG SANCO ON DATA PROTECTION

On 29 October, **Sara Roda represented the CED at a joint meeting between the health professions (CED, CPME and PGEU) and two EU officials of the European Commission's DG Justice and DG SANCO.** The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the effects of the [Commission's proposal for a General Data Protection Regulation](#) on micro, small and medium-size (SMEs) health practices and to have some clarification on the provisions related to the following points: 1) explicit consent applied to health services; 2) right to be forgotten and the scope of derogations related to the retention of data and the possibility to restrict processing; 3) certain requirements applied to controllers and processors, such as the need to undertake an impact assessment and to designate a data protection officer; 4) amount of the administrative fines; and 5) costs' estimation to implement the new Regulation on SMEs dealing with sensitive data.

EU HEALTH POLICY FORUM

On 25 October 2012, **Nina Bernot and Sara Roda 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 and the Cypriot and Irish Presidencies on health

related issues and on the proposed data protection regulation. The Forum members agreed on a position paper on the importance of health research and decided that the Forum should lobby the European Parliament and the Council to ensure that the EU recognises health as a value in itself and does not neglect it in the time of general economic crisis.

SECTION II – CED WORKING GROUPS

TOOTH WHITENING (WG TW)

HISTORY

WG TW was established in May 1998 as WG Bleaching Agents, changing its name to Tooth Whitening in May 2006. Over the years, this WG has helped developing CED policy related to the use of hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) in dentistry, providing expertise on the proper classification of tooth whitening products (TWPs). To this end, the WG examined if TWPs treat the consequences of a disease or the disease itself; investigated how TWPs were classified by Member States, looking at the criteria to apply a CE mark, and how the concentrations of H₂O₂ influenced the way they were classified. The WG analysed who should be permitted to apply concentrations over 6% of H₂O₂; reviewed the scientific literature on TWPs, in particular to find evidence about the safety (or non-safety) of use of different concentrations of H₂O₂; and monitored the availability of concentrations of over 6% of TWPs in the market.

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Between 2010 and 2011, the WG followed the Commission's proposal to regulate tooth whitening products containing H₂O₂ under the [Cosmetic Products Directive \(76/768/EEC\)](#). Annex III of this Directive was amended by [Council Directive 2011/84/EU](#) which prohib-

its the marketing of products containing over 6 % of H₂O₂ and establishes new conditions for using products between 0.1% and 6% of H₂O₂. These are explained in the [CED Guidelines on the interpretation and implementation of Directive 2011/84/EU](#) which were developed by the WG in 2012 as well as on the [tooth whitening fact sheet](#). Directive 2011/84/EU aims to implement the opinion of the [Scientific Committee on Consumer Products \(currently replaced by the SCCS\)](#), of 18 December 2007 on [hydrogen peroxide, in its free form or when released, in oral hygiene products and tooth whitening products](#).

The WG investigated the use of alternative TWPs, including chlorine dioxide, and their effect in teeth. The WG also monitored and provided support to member associations in countries where tooth whitening products was (and still is) used illegally by non-dentists, placing the public at risk.

TW POLICY

Tooth whitening constitutes the practice of dentistry and should only be carried out by dentists or other dental care professionals who are registered to provide dental care. Non-dental professionals are not trained to consider a patient's wider health and detect problems (such as gum disease) that impact on the suitability of an individual to have their teeth whitened, and sometimes they use inappropriate and potentially dangerous chemicals.

TWPs are regulated under Directive 76/768/EEC being classified at EU level as cosmetic products, and not medical devices (see [version 1.13 of the Manual on Borderline and Classification in the Community Regulatory Framework for Medical Devices](#), pages 35-36). Therefore, the CE mark is unduly affixed in these products.

POLICY PRIORITIES 2012-2013

The WG will continue to monitor the implementation of Directive 2011/84/EU, answering to any questions arising from it. The WG intends to encourage the use of [the reporting mechanism for undesirable effects](#) caused by TWP's and it will prepare and review the "annual report summary" to present to the Commission on the undesirable effects caused by TWP's of concentrations between 0,1% and 6% of H₂O₂ or equivalent observed by dentists or reported by patients themselves. The first report will cover the period from 31/10/2012 to 31/10/2013. The WG also intends to encourage further research by the industry as well as search for scientific evidence, in order to allow an approach to the Commission in relation to concentrations over 6% of H₂O₂ and the use of TWP's on the under 18 years old.

WHO MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

WG members are at the heart of CED policy. The WG has 6 members from 6 Member States. Among these are:

- **Dr Stuart Johnston** – CED WG Chair, Principal Executive Committee member of the British Dental Association, Chair Dental Practice Committee of the World Dental Federation (FDI) and dental practitioner, United Kingdom;

- **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;

- **Prof Dr Alessandro Pala**, senior Professor in the University of Rome, running a couple of research projects on magnetic nanoparticles and on structure-activity relationships of proteins, ex-Professor of Clinical Chemistry in the same University (until 1 November 2011), Ph.D. in Chemistry, member of SC7 "Oral Care" of ISO TC 106 (dentistry), consultant in ANDI - Associazione Nazionale Dentisti

Italiani, Italy;

- **Dr Roland L'Herron**, CED Board member, dental practitioner and author of many articles, CNSD - Confédération Nationale des Syndicats Dentaires, France; and,

- **Dr Stefaan Hanson**, dental practitioner and Executive Director of the Flemish Dental Association, Chief Dental Officer, Belgium.

SECTION III – CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

HUGE INTEREST IN IRELAND'S NEW DENTAL COMPLAINTS SCHEME

A new dental complaints resolution service launched by the Irish Dental Association in May 2012 is already proving an outstanding success.

The Dental Complaints Resolution Service aims to assist dental patients and participating dentists resolve complaints about dental services. The complaints scheme is the latest initiative from the Association designed to promote confidence in the high standards of dental care provided in Ireland.

The complaints scheme's mediator Mr Michael Kilcoyne, formerly a Ministerial nominee to the Dental Council and currently Chairman of the Consumer Association of Ireland, says the number of enquiries received is already well ahead of expectations.

Michael sees this as a really positive indication of support for the scheme from both the dental profession and the general public.

He says most complaints relate to patient concerns regarding pricing, allegations of poor service, poor communications or unsatisfactory after-care service. Already a handful of complaints have been fully resolved to the mutual satisfaction of the parties which represents a very timely and successful outcome in such a short space of time. Dentists have been pleased to see

cases resolved in a timely fashion and without recourse to lengthy and expensive legal correspondence.

The availability of the scheme can also reassure patients, provide a useful way to review engagement with patients and help to nurture long-lasting relations with patients who see the commitment of the practice to handling complaints in a professional manner.

More information on the scheme is available to dentists and members of the public at www.dentalcomplaints.ie

Contributed by the Irish Dental Association

"STOMATOLOGY 2012 – THE WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY" CONFERENCE IN WARSAW

The Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists, in particular its Dental Practitioners' Committee, is since years committed to raising public awareness of the significance of oral health as part of overall human health. The Chamber is engaged in various activities in this field. One of such an event is the annual conference held in Warsaw that gathers leading dental and medical practitioners of various specialties, academics, researchers, representatives of mass media and health administration. In previous years the main topics included epidemiology of dental disease, role of dentists in the delivery of general healthcare (dentist as a GP).

This year the Conference took place on 31 May - the WHO World No Tobacco Day. It was a perfect occasion to present the health risks related to smoking and to discuss prevention and diagnosis issues in the context of oral health. The presentations were focused on different aspects of this matter – not only the responsibilities and cooperation between dental and medical practitioners was discussed, but also important legal and financial considerations were mentioned. The

invited speakers included representatives of the WHO and the Ministry of Health.

As in previous years, special attention was paid to proper dissemination of the information presented at the Conference, as we know that it is of utmost importance that the message is received not only by the dental and medical professionals, but also the general public. To this end many representatives of mass media were invited and the Conference was followed by a number of interesting publications in the press, radio and TV.

Contributed by the Polish Chamber of Physicians and Dentists.

THE EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET FOR FREELANCE HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS: PUTTING THE QUALITY OF CARE AT RISK? – 7TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF THE GERMAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The impact of the shortage of qualified healthcare professionals on the quality of patient care and the growing mobility of healthcare employees within Europe was the main focus of the 7th European Conference of the German Dental Association (BZÄK), held in Berlin on 5th September 2012.

Around 70 delegates from various authorities, associations and other organisations accepted the invitation to attend the conference, which was held in the preserved ruins of the former lecture hall at the Berlin Museum of Medical History. This year, the main topics for discussion were the Action Plan for the EU Health Workforce published in April 2012 and the ongoing consultations on a revision of the Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications. Annette Widmann-Mauz (CDU), MP, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Health, got the debate underway with her keynote speech. Caroline

Hager of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumers explained how the EU is looking to use the Action Plan to combat the lack of qualified healthcare professionals, which has now become a problem in all EU member states.

Journalist Dr Ursula Weidenfeld moderated the panel discussion on ways of dealing with the shortage of qualified professionals and the important role to be played by professional bodies in terms of self-regulation. The panel comprised Dr Rolf Koschorrek, MP, Chairman of the CDU/CSU German Bundestag Parliamentary Committee on Health and President of the Federal Association of Liberal Professions, Gertrud Stöcker, Vice President of the German Nursing Association, Undersecretary Dr Volker Grigutsch, Head of the Department of Disease Control and General Healthcare at the Federal Ministry of Health, Prof. Winfried Kluth, Chair of Public Law at the Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg, Caroline Hager and BZÄK President Dr Peter Engel.

For the conference programme and further information on the event, please visit the BZÄK homepage at: www.bzaek.de/wir-ueber-uns/europa.html

Contributed by BZÄK, Germany.

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