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**EUROPEAN DENTISTS DISCUSS PROPOSED CHANGES
TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE AND
MEDICAL DEVICES LEGISLATION,
ADOPT POLICY ON NITROGEN SEDATION**

Representatives of CED member and observer organisations met in Copenhagen, Denmark on 11 and 12 May 2012 for a regular six-monthly General Meeting, under the chairmanship of CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus. The meeting was hosted by the Danish Dental Association, in the context of the Danish EU Presidency.

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 330,000 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.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

CED members reaffirmed their views on the possible changes to the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC), which is currently being considered by the European Parliament.

The CED has called for defining the minimum duration of training for dental practitioners not only in years (5 years) but also in training hours (5000 hours), to maintain a high standard of dental education in the interest of patient safety. CED members support language checks for dentists practising in another Member State, but believe that the wording proposed by the European Commission should be simplified in order to avoid confusion and different procedures depending on the status of the healthcare provider. The CED supports the increased use of electronic means in recognition of professional qualifications through the IMI system but calls for extension of the newly introduced short deadlines imposed on competent authorities, particularly in view of the suggested tacit approval of recognition if the deadline is not met. Finally, CED members are strongly opposed to the application of the principle of partial access and ask for a clear exemption for healthcare professions and professions related to public health in the Directive.

CED Position Paper: [CED Position Paper on the Professional Qualifications Directive](#)

MEDICAL DEVICES LEGISLATION

In view of the proposal for the recast of the medical devices legislation, which the European Commission is expected to present before the summer break, European dentists called for increased traceability and transparency of the system.

The PIP breast implant scandal clearly showed the need to strengthen medical device regulation and its implementation, to reduce the risk of similar incidents in connection to other medical devices in the future. Specifically, the CED has suggested enhancing reporting obligations of manufacturers, requiring them to report all sites of manufacturing and subcontracting of custom-made devices, to ensure transparency and free choice for end users.

NITROUS OXIDE SEDATION IN DENTISTRY

In a resolution reviewed by the European Federation for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry (EFAAD) and the Society for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry (SAAD), CED members unanimously supported the use of inhalation sedation using nitrous oxide in dentistry. Administered properly and in line with relevant national legislation, by accredited dental practitioners using well-maintained equipment, and appropriately trained assistants, the technique is safe and effective, with an extremely high success rate and should be maintained in the armamentarium of dentistry as a fundamental tool for pain and anxiety management.

As many as 10 to 30% of adults and children may have some form of fear or anxiety related to dental treatment. While there is substantial evidence that these patients can benefit from this safe form of sedation, its use has been challenged in some European countries.

CED Resolution: [The use of nitrous oxide inhalation sedation in dentistry](#)

For more information contact:

Nina Brandelet-Bernot

Head of CED Brussels Office

Tel: + 32 2 736 34 29

ced@eudental.eu

<http://www.eudental.eu>