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EUROPEAN DENTISTS ADOPT POLICY ON E-HEALTH, CALL FOR RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS ON DENTAL AMALGAM, SUPPORT CHANGES TO PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

Representatives of CED member and observer organisations met in Brussels, Belgium on 23 November 2012 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. Wolfgang Doneus (Austria) was re-elected to the position of CED President for another three-year term. Dr. Marco Landi (Italy) and Dr. Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria) were re-elected as Directors. Dr. Alexander Tolmeijer (the Netherlands) was also elected to the position of a CED Director. They join current Directors Dr. Susie Sanderson (Treasurer, United Kingdom), Dr. Peter Engel (Germany), Dr. Pirkko Grönroos (Finland) and Dr. Roland L'Herron (France). The Board met briefly after the General Meeting and appointed Dr. Marco Landi as the new CED Vice-President.

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.

E-HEALTH

During the plenary session, Members of the CED unanimously adopted a Resolution on eHealth. CED Members stressed that dentists must have access to patients' relevant medical data, and while they should not be allowed to change any data about procedures they have not carried out themselves they can only be liable for the information included in the records by them. The CED supports a minimum common set of patient data which should also include dental information to have a clear and effective system for functioning of eHealth. Patients must have access to their medical data which is highly sensitive and must be secured appropriately in line with relevant EU data protection legislation.

European dentists recognise the difficulties inherent in trying to develop a uniform codification system for diagnosis and treatments to achieve semantic interoperability of eHealth systems in dentistry and support preferably the development of common codes or, as an alternative, correspondence tables in EU Member States with regard to treatment codes.

Dentists recommend the implementation of national certification procedures for dental software and stress that it should be possible for all patient data to be exported into an open and standardised format to ensure competition and avoid loss of data.

CED Resolution: [eHealth](#)



DRAFT CHARTER FOR LIBERAL PROFESSIONS

Liberal professions are growing in importance as one of the main drivers of the EU economy and often provide public services in core areas of general interest. Nevertheless, their social significance and specific situation are still not properly taken into account when adopting or amending EU legislation.

Through this draft for a Charter for Liberal Professions, European dentists support establishing guidelines which will ensure that European Institutions consider possible implications for liberal professions of any new or amended legislation. The CED looks forward to discussing the draft with other organisations representing liberal professions at European level.

[CED Draft Charter for Liberal Professions](#)

DENTAL AMALGAM

CED Members noted the preparations for the January INC5 meeting which is expected to lead to a legally binding global treaty on mercury. They called on the EU to take an evidence based position in relation to dental amalgam and pointed to the risks of a phase out or over-swift phase down of dental amalgam on health economies and on the stability of the health of European populations.

The CED supports the World Health Organisation's recommendation for a phase down of dental amalgam, coupled with a flexibility to allow national governments to manage the change in the balance of the use of the range of dental materials at a pace which is appropriate to their own domestic circumstances. In addition, national governments should be challenged to commit to programmes to improve the oral health of their communities so that the overall need for restorative interventions is reduced, an element which is currently not mentioned in the draft UNEP treaty.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE

CED Members confirmed their positions on the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications which is currently being considered by the European Parliament and the Council.

Minimum duration of training for dentists should be expressed not only in years (5 years) but also in the number of training hours (5000 hours of fulltime theoretical and practical training) to prevent the proliferation of weekend diplomas and content-light academic programmes and to maintain an acceptable standard of dental education without jeopardizing patient safety. In addition, the principle of partial access should not be applied to health professions and for health professions language checks should be carried out prior to the admission to the profession.

EUROPEAN ORAL HEALTH DAY

CED Board recommended to CED Member Associations to maintain 12 September as the European Oral Health Day. The Board noted that this date was well-established in European countries and linked to existing national initiatives and that it would therefore not be appropriate to move it to another date.

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