



### Introduction

Welcome to the 1st issue of CED EU Info of 2013. This issue is divided in two sections: the first section provides updates on EU topics relevant to the dental profession and the second section contains more general information regarding EU policy.

## SECTION I – EU TOPICS RELEVANT TO THE DENTAL PROFESSION

### DIRECTIVE ON THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (PQD)

On 23 January 2013, the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted the draft report on the Professional Qualifications Directive. The Committee agreed that basic dental training should comprise a total of at least five years of full-time study, which may, as a complement, be expressed with the equivalent ECTS credits, consisting of at least 5000 hours of theoretical and practical study. In addition, they proposed that partial access should not apply to the professions benefiting from automatic recognition under the Directive and clarified the provisions on language checks for health professions.

The mandate to enter triologue negotiations with the Council was approved on 21 February 2013. The vote in plenary on the Directive is foreseen in June.

In the Council, the discussions have continued within the Council Working Party Establishment and Services. The Working Party met on 14 January, 4 and 18 February 2013 to discuss the technical issues of the PQD and to consider the IMCO's Draft Report. The file will be submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER I) on 1 March 2013 with a view to agreeing a mandate for a triologue with the European Parliament.

### DENTAL AMALGAM

UNEP negotiations for an international mercury treaty closed on 19 January 2013 with a good outcome for dentistry. The agreement acknowledged the WHO's phase down approach as appropriate and will allow national governments to pace their actions according to domestic needs. Attention should also be paid to prevention programmes designed to reduce the incidence of dental diseases, to best practices for reducing the environmental load from dental amalgam waste and to use and research into alternative restorative materials.

The two new draft opinions on dental amalgam requested from the European Commission's Scientific Committees (Scientific Committee for Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) and Scientific Committee for Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER)) are scheduled to be published in March 2013. The final opinions are expected in June 2013.

### GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

On 10 January 2013, the rapporteur, Jan- Philipp Albrecht (Greens, Germany), presented his [draft report](#) on the General Data Protection Regulation to the Civil Liberties (LIBE) Committee. The draft report was further discussed in the LIBE Committee on 21 January. On 23 January 2013, the IMCO Committee voted in favour of MEP's Lara Comi (EPP, Italy) draft opinion on the General Data Protection Regu-

lation. On 21 February, the Industry (ITRE) Committee adopted MEP's Seán Kelly (EPP, Ireland) draft opinion. The deadline for tabling amendments to the LIBE report which will eventually incorporate IMCO and ITRE opinions is due on 27 February and the orientation vote (mandate for negotiations with the Council) should take place in the end of April. The European Parliament and the Irish Presidency seek to start the negotiations in the first half of 2013.

### MEDICAL DEVICES

The Commission's [proposal for a Regulation on medical devices](#) is now being discussed in the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee. On 16 October 2012, MEP Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (S&D) was appointed rapporteur and Mairead McGuinness (EPP), Holger Kraemer (ALDE), Michèle Rivasi (Greens), Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR) and Alda Sousa (GUE/NGL) were appointed shadow rapporteurs. A first exchange of views in the ENVI Committee was scheduled on 18 February but has been postponed to a later date. A workshop to discuss the proposal with stakeholders is planned to take place in the European Parliament on 26 February.

In the Council (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs) four Working Party meetings are already scheduled for this year.

The legislation is expected to be adopted in 2014 and would come into force between 2015 and 2019.

CED Working Group Medical Devices met on 22 January 2013 in Brussels to draft CED amendments on the Commission's Proposal.

## TOBACCO HEARING

On 19 December 2012, the European Commission adopted its proposal to revise Tobacco Products Directive: [Revision of the Tobacco Products Directive](#). They are aiming for adoption (by the Parliament and the Council) in 2014 and for implementation from 2015-2016.

The public hearing on tobacco products in the European Parliament's Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) Committee is planned on 25 February. During the hearing institutional representatives, main stakeholders, health and other experts will exchange views on the subject.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS RELATED TO DENTISTRY

The CED Brussels office compiled a series of questions related to dentistry brought forward by Members of the European Parliament to the Commission in 2012. These questions are available [here](#).

## RESOLUTION ON "THE MICROBIAL CHALLENGE – RISING THREATS FROM ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE"

On 6 November 2012, the European Parliament's ENVI Committee adopted the [report](#) by MEP Anna Rosbach (ECR, Denmark) on "the Microbial Challenge – Rising Threats from Antimicrobial Resistance". A [resolution](#) was adopted by the European Parliament during the plenary vote on 11 December 2012 (588 votes to 16, with 23 abstentions).

## IONISING RADIATION DIRECTIVE

On 30 May 2012 the European Commission adopted the [proposal for a Directive laying down basic safety standards for protection](#)

[against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation](#). The proposal sets out the basic safety standards (BSS) to protect the health of the public, patients and workers against the dangers of ionising radiation. It builds on the recently updated recommendations of the International Commission for Radiological Protection, including also natural radiation sources.

The Rapporteur, MEP Thomas Ulmer (EPP, Germany) presented his [draft report](#) on 20 December 2012. In his report, the Rapporteur welcomed the proposal as a further step towards improving protection against exposure to ionising radiation. Among others, he seeks to avoid possible conflicts in the disposal of different radioactive materials and reduce administrative burden related to requirements for certain medical devices.

The vote on the draft report is scheduled on 24 April and the vote in plenary is expected on 21 May.

## MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS DIRECTIVE

On 20 December 2012, the European Commission adopted the [Implementing Directive 2012/52/EU laying down measures to facilitate the recognition of medical prescriptions issued in another Member State](#). The Directive sets out pan-EU rules on a minimum list of elements to be included in a medical prescription taken by a patient travelling from one EU country to another. The new rules introduce a common set of descriptive elements to help identify prescribers, patients and prescribed products. They do not, however, deal with the appearance, format or language of the prescription. Nor do they preclude further elements, in line with local practices, being added by prescribers. National Contact Points, established under the Cross-border Healthcare Directive will inform patients on provisions relating to cross-border

prescriptions as well as the minimum list of elements that they should contain.

The provisions for a common way to identify the patient, the prescriber and the prescribed product, are to be put into national law by the Member States by 25 October 2013.

## REFERENCE FOR A PRELIMINARY RULING FROM FRENCH CONSEIL D'ETAT REGARDING DIRECTIVE ON THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A [reference for a preliminary ruling from the French Conseil d'Etat was lodged on 5 November 2012](#) with the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). The questions referred by the Conseil d'Etat concern the interpretation of Article 36 of Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications, specificity and distinctive nature of the profession of dental practitioner compared with the medical profession and validity of national legislation introducing university training common to medical and dental students.

## SECTION II – GENERAL EU POLICY

### EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING - ACTION PLANS

On 6 November 2012, the European Commission adopted [six Action Plans](#) to tackle specific challenges in the field of Active and Healthy Ageing: adherence to treatment, falls prevention, frailty, integrated care, independent living and age friendly environments. They aim to improve the quality of life of four million European senior citizens between now and 2015.

## HEALTH FOR GROWTH PROGRAMME (2012 - 2014) – STATE OF PLAY

On 9 November 2011, the European Commission submitted a [Proposal for a Regulation on establishing a Health for Growth Programme, the third multiannual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020](#). The general objectives of the programme are to encourage innovation in healthcare and increase the sustainability of health systems, to improve the health of EU citizens and protect them from cross-border health threats.

[Progress has been made to find agreement](#) on most of the text following several trilogue negotiations with the European Parliament and the Council. Three issues remain open to further negotiations and are planned to be tackled under the Irish Presidency: the budget envelope for the Health Programme, the modalities of the adoption of Annual Work Programmes and the co-financing rate of for Joint Actions to create incentives for better participation of low GNI Member States.

## NEW COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH

On 23 November 2012, the Council appointed by common accord with the President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and in accordance with article 246 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU Tonio Borg as new commissioner for health and consumer affairs. Tonio Borg is a Maltese national and has been Deputy Prime Minister of his country since 2004 and minister for foreign affairs since 2008. He replaces John Dalli.

## HEALTH PROGRAMME - ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2013

On 28 November 2012, the [Annual Work Plan 2013 for the health programme](#) was adopted. The main priorities for 2013 will be: active and

healthy ageing (focus on chronic diseases), effective ways to invest in health (also health workforce), patients' rights and safety, advice and data, particularly on sustainable health systems. The Work Plan will also support the implementation of legislation in the areas of safety and quality of tissues, cells and blood, cross-border healthcare, pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

## COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS ON HEALTHY AGEING ACROSS LIFECYCLE

On 6-7 December 2012, the Council adopted [conclusions](#) on healthy ageing across the lifecycle. The conclusions, call for efforts to foster health promotion, disease prevention and early diagnosis. They acknowledge that innovative approaches in health promotion and disease prevention could help elderly people to remain independent longer and improve their quality of life. They underline that good health among working age people contributes to higher productivity and other benefits for citizens and society to meet the goals of the Europe2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. The conclusions call upon the Member States to make the issue of healthy ageing across the lifecycle one of their priorities for the coming years and to adopt an approach that shifts the focus towards health promotion, disease prevention and early diagnosis.

## SOCIAL INVESTMENT PACKAGE

On 20 February 2013, the European Commission adopted its Social Investment Package for growth and cohesion. The initiative aims to help Member States to use their social and health budgets more efficiently and effectively, by promoting best practices and providing guidance. The [Investing in Health working document](#) establishes the role of health as integral to the

Europe 2020 strategy. It strengthens the link between EU health policies and national health system reforms and presents the case for smart investments for sustainable health systems, investing in people's health and investing in reducing inequalities in health.

**Comments, questions and contributions please contact:**  
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