

CED ACTIVITIES INFO

Issue 1 – March 2012

COUNCIL OF
EUROPEAN DENTISTS



Introduction

Welcome to the 1st issue of CED Activities Info of 2012. CED Activities Info reports on the political activities of the President and Board members, as well as on the work of CED Working Groups, Board Task Forces and the Brussels Office.

CED BOARD

MEETING ON 2 MARCH

On 2 March, the CED Board of Directors met in Brussels for its regular quarterly meeting. During the meeting, hosted by the Permanent Representation of Austria, CED Board members reviewed CED political activities since their November meeting and discussed current political developments which are most likely to significantly impact the dental profession.

The Board approved a number of initiatives by CED working bodies in preparation to the May CED General Meeting in Copenhagen. They reviewed CED finances and discussed the possible financial, operational and reputational risks to the CED, agreeing that these should be reflected upon and appropriate mitigating actions taken at regular intervals. In connection to the November elections for the CED Board, they agreed that an information sheet, summarising obligations of CED Directors under Belgian law and CED Statutes will be sent to CED Members together with the call for candidacies.

Board members also raised concerns in connections to recent attempts in several EU countries to deregulate liberal professions in response to the economic crisis. They supported continued self-regulation of liberal professions and maintenance of high standards in their performance.

OBE FOR A CED DIRECTOR

CED Treasurer and Board member Susie Sanderson was awarded the

title of an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) as part of the 2012 New Year Honours List recognising her services to dentistry.

CED PRESIDENT

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER OF POLAND

On 12 January, CED President Wolfgang Doneus wrote, at the initiative of the CED's Polish member, to Prime Minister Tusk of Poland in connection to the **Polish law on the reimbursement of medicines and medical devices**. The law which entered into force on 1 January 2012 instituted new responsibilities of doctors and dentists prescribing products subject to reimbursement. CED President expressed concerns that requiring the prescribers to be liable for verifying the level of patient entitlement would be excessively burdensome and unfair, especially in view of the absence of a regularly updated and reliable list of the insured.

CED WORKING GROUPS (WG)

WG AMALGAM

The European Commission is currently reviewing the issue of mercury pollution with the aim of determining if there is a need for further legislative action and has commissioned BIO Intelligence Service to carry out a **study on the life cycle of dental amalgam**. CED WG Amalgam prepared a communication package on responsible practice to help CED members to initiate contacts with the relevant national

ministries on this issue. The package was released by the CED on 27 February and includes the [CED resolution on responsible practice](#), which signposts actions that dentists should take in order to reduce the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam, as well as the [WHO report on the future use of materials for dental restoration](#), suggesting a phase-down, rather than a phase-out of the use of dental amalgam.

The CED has been invited to attend a **stakeholders' workshop on 26 March** organised by the Commission where [BIOIS](#) will present its "Study on the potential for reducing mercury pollution from dental amalgam and batteries". WG Chair Susie Sanderson, CED member Stuart Johnston and CED Policy Officer Sara Roda will attend. BIOIS preliminary report will be released in early March and the final report is expected by May 2012. The WG is planning to meet shortly after the workshop to discuss and prepare the CED comments on the study which will then be forwarded to BIOIS and the Commission for consideration. During the meeting the WG will also discuss the use of alternative materials for dental restorations.

WG EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (WG EPQ)

On 25 November 2011, **WG member Barbara Bergmann-Krauss was confirmed as a member of the Reference Group "Human health and Social work activities"** in the [ESCO project](#), acknowledging



her professional profile and expertise. She was nominated by the CED as an expert which will represent the dental profession in this Group.

On 31 January, **the sectoral professions under the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD) met with the European Commission** to discuss and address specific questions related to the [Commission's proposal on the PQD](#). The CED, represented by Head of Office Nina Bernot and Policy Officer Sara Roda, raised the issues of minimum training requirements in dentistry, the new provision on remunerated traineeship and the modalities of the decision to introduce the European Professional Card (which now adopts the format of an electronic certificate) for a given profession. Other questions were addressed, such as partial access, language regime, delegated acts and the alert mechanism. The meeting marked another step in the ongoing dialogue between the Commission and the sectoral professions on the PQD.

On 2 February, CED Board member Peter Engel, Nina Bernot and Sara Roda attended **a meeting organised by the Commission on the modernisation of the PQD**. In the meeting, the Commission explained its proposal to amend the PQD and once again the CED took the opportunity to stress the need to define the minimum duration of dental training in both years and hours.

On 9 February, the **WG EPQ met in Brussels**. Besides preparing the CED's position to the Commission's Proposal on the PQD, they finalised the draft resolution on the use of nitrous oxide inhalation sedation in dentistry, discussed the CED's recommendations for continuing professional development (CPD), and analysed the replies to the CED questionnaires on the implementation of the Bologna system and on vocational training for dental training. WG members also noted that

the CED would start scheduling meetings with the relevant MEPs to discuss the PQD; a meeting between shadow rapporteur MEP Constance Le Grip and CED Board member Roland L'Herron took place on 27 February.

On 10 February, the **CED-ADEE task force met in Brussels**. [ADEE](#) represents European dental schools. The interlocutors discussed the minimum training requirements established in the PQD, the ECTS system and a possible joint proposal on these issues. The task force agreed on proposing a joint amendment to the PQD, asking for the **minimum duration of training for dental practitioners to be expressed in years (5 years), hours (5000 hours) and ECTS credits (300 ECTS)**, to ensure continued high quality of dental education in the interest of patient safety. The task force further agreed to prepare a new draft Annex for the PQD which will combine, in this order, competences, learning outcomes (which will include students' assessment and grading as a separate section) and subjects. The task force will meet again on 6 July.

WG EHEALTH

On 20 January, the **WG met on-line** to discuss Dr Jørn Jørgensen's memo on codes and classification. The WG agreed to investigate in further detail at the next WG meeting, scheduled for 12 March in Brussels, the [SNOMED classification](#). Each member would report their preliminary findings about the use of this classification at national level. The WG will also prepare the **CED draft resolution on eHealth** which will be submitted for adoption to the CED General Meeting in Copenhagen.

The **CED has been accepted to participate in the [eHealth Stakeholders Group of users and industry representatives](#)**. The Group, led by the Commission, will provide a platform for stakeholders to contribute

to the development of legislation or policy related to eHealth, e.g. by providing reports, opinions and relevant data. The CED will be represented by WG chair Dr Piret Väli (member) and WG member Dr Jørn Jørgensen (substitute).

WG MEDICAL DEVICES

WG Medical Devices met on 10 January to discuss CED position on the **upcoming Commission's proposal for a new regulation on medical devices**. In a letter to the Commission on 19 January, the CED called for clarification of definitions, strengthening the reporting obligations of manufacturers of custom-made devices and introduction of exemptions from the Unique Device Identification (UDI) system for custom-made devices and small healthcare providers. CED Board member Marco Landi and CED Head of Office Nina Bernot discussed the proposal with DG SANCO's Director Jacqueline Minor during a meeting on 9 February. The Commission's proposal is expected to be published by summer.

On 22 February, Nina Bernot attended on behalf of the CED the meeting of the Ad hoc working group on UDI during which the Commission presented its intentions in connection to a **future European UDI system**. The Commission intends to include the main principles about the UDI system in the upcoming regulation on medical devices and to publish a Recommendation to Member States by the end of 2012. Details of the European UDI system are proposed to be clarified through delegated or implementing acts, expected in 2014. Concerns about this suggested way forward were expressed.

On 23 January, WG chair Edoardo Cavallé and Board member Marco Landi met with the rapporteur on the [proposed regulation on European standardisation](#), MEP Lara Comi. They called for **excluding health-care services from the scope of**

the regulation on standardisation, recalling the special character of healthcare and raising concerns that standardisation might infringe on the rights of Member States to independently organise and deliver medical care, exclude some dentists and negatively impact the overall quality of dental care. The CED joins European doctors and pharmacists in asking for this exclusion.

The CED sent a template letter to its members on 14 February, asking them to contact their national governments to ensure agreement in the Council on exclusion of healthcare from the scope of the standardisation regulation.

WG ORAL HEALTH

WG Oral Health met online on 16 January to discuss the **CED public event on oral health** to be organised in 2012. The event will be based on the [CED resolution For better oral health of all EU citizens: mutual integration of oral and general health](#) and will stress the links between general and oral health, common risk factors and the need for cooperation between different health professionals, as well as engagement of patients. MEPs, health attachés and stakeholders will be invited to participate.

In January, the CED contributed to the EU Health Policy Forum's response to **DG SANCO's consultation on chronic diseases**. The CED stressed that oral diseases remain a major health burden in Europe, affecting majority of the population, and that oral diseases both share and are in themselves risk factors for other major chronic diseases.

WG PATIENT SAFETY

On 21 November 2011, CED Head of Office Nina Bernot attended on behalf of the CED the meeting of the **Patient Safety and Quality of Care Working Group**. The Group is currently discussing its future role. Ideas such as focusing on gaps to

be revealed by the Commission's report on the implementation of the 2009 Council Recommendation on patient safety are being discussed.

Joint Action on patient safety (PaSQ) in which the CED will participate as an associated partner, is expected to formally start with a kick-off meeting in Roskilde, Denmark, on 24 and 25 May in which Nina Bernot will take part.

WG TOOTH WHITENING

CED WG Tooth Whitening met on 1 March in Brussels to finalise the CED Guidelines on [Directive 2011/84/EU](#). The Directive, which introduces a new **EU regulatory regime for tooth whitening products** containing hydrogen peroxide and will have to be implemented by Member States from 31 October 2012, has created a fair amount of confusion among individual dentists and the general public. The CED Guidelines are meant to help CED Members guide their national authorities in correct transposition and provide accurate information to the public. They will be sent to CED Members by the end of March.

WG Tooth Whitening also discussed the CED commitment to report on the undesirable effects of tooth whitening to the European Commission and the need to raise with the Commission the dangers of the use of chlorine dioxide in tooth whitening.

CED BOARD TASK FORCES (BTF)

BTF INTERNAL MARKET

In January, the CED replied to the Commission's [public consultation on measures for improving the recognition of medical prescriptions issued in another Member State](#). The CED suggested ways of **improving safety and accuracy of cross-border prescriptions, while calling for continued respect for patient privacy**, in line with applicable

legislation and ethical norms of prescribing health professionals.

In February, the CED was nominated by the European Commission to become an **associated partner within the future Joint Action on health workforce planning and forecasting**. BTF Internal Market will coordinate CED contributions and hopes to inject into the Joint Action the perspective of practising dentists. On 11 January, CED Head of Office Nina Bernot attended the preparatory meeting for the Joint Action where the content of individual work packages was discussed.

On 20 February, the **BTF IM met in Brussels** to discuss the CED's position to the Commission's Proposal on the PQD. The Task Force also discussed the results of the CED questionnaire on dentist workforce trends and planning (which will be reported to the CED Members shortly), the [Commission's communication on the future of VAT](#) and the [Data Protection Reform](#). The CED will monitor and prepare positions on these two issues.

CED OFFICE

CED ON TWITTER

Since mid-December 2011, the CED Office provides short and timely updates on CED work and political developments in Brussels affecting European dentists. If you are on Twitter, please feel free to follow us. If you are not familiar with Twitter but curious to see what we are tweeting, simply use the following link: www.twitter.com/CEDentists.

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