

Preparing the dental workforce for the times ahead

About the CED



The Council of European Dentists (CED) is the representative organization for the dental profession in the EU and over 340,000 practicing professionals.

It is composed of 33 national dental associations from 31 European countries (28 Full Members, 4 Affiliate Members and 1 Observer).

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Dr. Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg
President (Denmark)



President's perspective

Representing the midpoint in my CED Presidency mandate, 2023 was marked by a consolidation of our strategy on prioritising the interests of the dental profession at the core of all our activities. The CED continues to strive to ensure that the current and future workforce is prepared and ready to respond to new challenges. In light of this, we continued to build on our existing policy work around topics such as digital health (specifically the European Health Data Space), education and professional qualifications, corporate dentistry and workforce aspects.

We also focused on strengthening our advocacy activities, encouraging further collaboration between our members at the national and the

European level through various lobby actions and surveys on topics such as eHealth, recognition of dental qualifications, dental diplomas, to name a few. In my role as President, I also attended conferences and meetings organised by our member associations and relevant stakeholders in the Netherlands, Ireland, Lithuania, the UK.

The CED continued prioritising our relationships with external stakeholders as well, through joint activities with partners such as the Standing Committee of European Doctors and through participation in EU-level working structures such as the Medical Device Coordination Group. We also boosted our communication with Members of the European Parliament through meetings and exchanges. Our collaboration with the European Regional Organisation of the World Dental Federation also continued, in relation to the EU Manual of Dental Practice and to topics such as corporate dentistry. We also continued engaging with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in light of our role as eligible organisation, by attending meetings and trainings of relevance to the CED.

The year 2023 in my view represents a stepping stone for the CED - a year of change and challenges, but also a year of opportunity to lay the foundations for our future priorities. As we now look towards 2024 and the upcoming changes set to take place in EU institutional leadership, I am confident that the CED and its members remain committed and dedicated to delivering on the vision of successful and engaged dentistry in Europe.

2023 at a glance

11 January

CED Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices meeting



17 January

CED at Coalition for Vaccination Conference

20 February

CED Working Group eHealth meeting



24 February

CED Working Group Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management meeting

16 March

CED Board Task Force Internal Market meeting

17 March

CED Board meeting

13 April

CED at the European Medicines Agency Healthcare Professionals Policy Officers Group meeting

14 April

CED visit by Board of Lower Saxony dental chamber

19 April

CED Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications meeting



24 April

CED Working Group Oral Health meeting

24 April

CED at ECDC Immunization Week launch event



12 May

CED Working Group Oral Health meeting

12 May

CED President at Irish Dental Association 100 Years event in Dublin



25 May

CED Board meeting in Stockholm, Sweden



26-27 May

CED General Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden

9 June

CED Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices meeting



19 June

CED Working Group eHealth meeting

30 June

CED President visits the Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT) and speaks at KNMT meeting

30 June

Visit by BZAEK young dentists delegation to the CED offices

5 July

CED President and staff presentation to the British Dental Association

6 July

CED at the European Medicines Agency Healthcare Professionals Policy Officers Group meetings

24–25 August

CED President at ADEE Annual Meeting, Liverpool

7 September

Working Group Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management Meeting

13 September

Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications meeting

25 September

CED Working Group Oral Health meeting

**6 October**

CED President and CED Policy Officer at Roundtable on mobile dentistry by the Lithuanian Dental Chamber in Vilnius, Lithuania

10 October

CED Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices meeting

24 October

CED at AMR event in the European Parliament

15 November

CED Board Task Force Internal Market meeting

**16 November**

CED Board meeting

**17 November**

CED General meeting

7 December

CED at the European Medicines Agency Healthcare Professionals Policy Officers Group meetings

12–13 December

CED staff at WHO conference 'Trust and transformation: resilient and sustainable health systems for the future', Tallinn, Estonia

Policy

Statement on Dentistry and the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) 2017/745

The MDR is an essential piece of legislation for ensuring high-quality health care and a cornerstone of patient safety across Europe. Nevertheless, several years into the implementation of the MDR, there are numerous discrepancies and variations in interpretation of the role of dentists in relation to dental medical devices. This brief statement aims to outline and describe the nature of the dental practice, the dental treatment, and dental medical devices as part of it.

CED Position on ‘Direct to Consumer’ (DTC) Orthodontics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Dentistry

The document was produced because there is an increased marketing of DTC orthodontics, potentially placing patients at risk since the procedure does not involve a comprehensive orthodontic diagnosis and treatment progress is not adequately supervised by a qualified dentist and/or specialist orthodontist. This is becoming an issue of concern in different countries and also interplays with the ongoing developments in EU legislation on eHealth and AI.

CED Position on the recognition of dental qualifications acquired in third countries

The document was developed based on the results of the CED survey on the topic as evidence on the process of qualifications recognition of dentists who received their diplomas in third countries and the satisfaction of the minimum training requirements under the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD) in different CED member countries. Through the Position, the CED provides policy recommendations, such as rigorous scrutiny of third country qualifications, consistent recognition process, alignment with European standards when providing simplified or expedited recognition process and clear language requirements.

CED updated Resolution on the Profile of the Dentist of the Future – key driving forces in dentistry

The document reflects the profession's latest trends and developments and includes principles of patient safety and awareness of their needs, in light of their complex medical profiles, as well as their relationship of trust with dentists. Moreover, the need for collaboration with other medical professionals and professions is mentioned and prevention is emphasized as a core principle to be followed and promoted by dentists.

CED updated Statement on Specialist Dentists

The CED General Meeting adopted a CED updated Statement on dental specialties, which emphasizes the increasing specialization of the profession, while keeping the CED position on the topic neutral.

Position on Dental Workforce Challenges

The issue of dental workforce challenges corresponds to the overall trend that Europe has been facing when it comes to healthcare professionals, with uneven distribution of numbers across and within countries. Through its Position, CED highlights the importance of addressing the status quo through targeted actions at all levels. Some of the dental profession's main recommendations on facing workforce challenges include the adoption of tailored approach based on each country's individual healthcare system and population requirements. Prevention should be prioritised and promoted within national healthcare systems, ensuring a reduction of costs, reducing the burden of disease, and improving public health as a whole.

Position on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)

The dental profession underlines that there are many discrepancies and variations in progress among Member States when it comes to use of electronic health records and dental data specifically. Furthermore, implementing and maintaining participation in the EHDS architecture brings numerous burdens to a dental practice. These include financial costs for software and hardware but also many hours dedicated to training and compliance – a time that dentists and their teams would devote to patient treatment and care. This is especially relevant for many smaller dental practices – for them, the increased financial and regulatory EHDS obligations could represent a significant challenge.

Working Groups



Dr. Edoardo Cavallé
(Italy) Chair

Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices

In 2023, the Working Group continued prioritizing the topic of the Medical Devices Regulation and its impact on dentistry. We actively engaged on ensuring that the timelines for re-certification under the MDR are extended, a process that was successfully implemented in the beginning of the year. Furthermore, the Working Group discussed in-depth the role of dentists within the MDR, and the importance of clear definitions and understanding of the nature of dental work and medical devices. The work on this topic resulted in the CED Statement on Dentistry and the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR), which was successfully adopted at the November 2023 General Meeting.

The Working Group continued engaging on various dental materials issues, focusing on relevant legislation such as the Revision of Regulation (EU) 2017/852 on mercury and the related European Commission proposal on the topic. Through its subgroup on amalgam, our organisation engaged with policymakers involved in the process and also encouraged the CED members to continue highlighting the profession's position on the matter.

In the coming year, the Working Group will continue engaging on the MDR and is ready to respond to ongoing and emerging developments on dental materials of relevance to the CED members.



Dr. Alexander Tolmeijer
(Netherlands) Chair

Working Group eHealth

The Working Group focused on two major priorities for 2023: developments in eHealth policy at the EU level, as well as the issue of Direct To Consumer (DTC) orthodontics.

On the first topic, the Working Group actively engaged on the European Health Data Space (EHDS), highlighting the priorities on the file for the dental profession: the importance of realistic timelines for implementation, the need to remove any financial and administrative burdens for healthcare professionals, the fact that dental practices that qualify as small and micro enterprises alike will face challenges with secondary data obligations as per the current EHDS text. Through the WG eHealth, the CED actively engaged in lobbying activities in relation to the EHDS, suggesting amendments to the file as well as producing a Position on it, adopted during the May 2023 General Meeting. Our work continued through joint statements with other healthcare professionals' associations, as well as template letters for outreach to members' policymakers involved in the legislative process.

On the topic of DTC orthodontics, the Working Group collaborated on the creation of a CED Position on 'Direct to Consumer Orthodontics', Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Dentistry. The Position warns of the dangers of orthodontics services that exclude the dentist as part of the diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. It also provides key recommendations in order to ensure that patients are protected from this ongoing tendency, and that a dentist is properly and fully involved throughout the process of orthodontic treatment.

In 2024, the Working Group will remain engaged on the EHDS and will continue to work on raising awareness on DTC orthodontics, while also responding to any new developments on eHealth policy of relevance to the dental profession.



Prof. Dr. Paulo Melo
(Portugal) Chair
– until April 2023

Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications

In 2023, the Working Group adopted a CED position on the Recognition of Qualifications of diplomas acquired in third countries, based on the results of the questionnaire conducted on this topic. The document calls for a rigorous scrutiny of third country qualifications, consistent recognition process, EU-aligned standards for simplified or expedited recognition processes and clear language requirements.



Dr. Nuala Carney
(Ireland) Chair
– from May 2023

The results of the questionnaire were also used in the CED reply to the European Commission (EC) call for evidence on the Recommendation on the recognition of qualifications of third country nationals.

Two of the CED policy documents on education and professional qualifications were updated, specifically the “Resolution on the Profile of the Dentist of the Future – key driving forces in dentistry” and the “Statement on Specialist Dentists”.

Finally, the WG initiated its work on the topic of EU dental diplomas, starting with a survey aimed to assess the evidence and opinion of Members on undergraduate operative clinical training to provide proper dental care. The results of this survey will be used in the next year as evidence for the CED reply to the EC draft Delegated Act on “Recognising the professional qualifications of nurses, pharmacists & dental practitioners: updated training requirements”.

We will continue to monitor the relevant EU legislation on the topic and give the CED input for high-standard education.



Dr. Alessandra Rossi
(ANDI, Italy) Chair
– until May 2023



**Dr. Vasileios
Stathopoulos**
(Greece) Chair
– from May 2023

Working Group Oral Health

In 2023, the Working Group updated its mandate, rethinking its core priorities under a new Chair.

On antimicrobial resistance, we continued to be involved in the AMR Stakeholder Network Group, and the CED became member as a stakeholder within the European Commission AMR One Health Network. The first meeting of the Network took place in September in a virtual format, where the recently adopted proposal for a Council Recommendation on stepping up EU actions to combat antimicrobial resistance in a One Health approach as part of the pharmaceutical package was discussed. The CED has also engaged with other European healthcare professionals' association to discuss the new proposal for the European Pharmaceutical Legislation and reply to the consultation on the legislation.

The Working Group was also active on the topic of Vaccination, taking part in the Coalition for Vaccination meetings and campaigns, such as a webinar organised by the European Commission for healthcare professionals and the co-signature of the statement by the coalition, as a common voice of healthcare professionals calling the population to get vaccinated.

The Working Group was very active to engage in the multiple European initiatives on health and replied to many consultations relevant to oral health, such as the European EU4HEALTH programme, feedback on the Beating Cancer Plan, the revision of the tobacco legislation, and the uptake of HPV vaccination.

Moreover, we focused on the WHO Resolution on Oral Health and provided the CED input to its development.

In 2024, the Working Group will continue to explore its priorities and work on activities relevant to the CED and its members.



**Prof. Dr. Ioannis
Tzoutzas**
(Greece) Chair

Working Group Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management

The Working Group continued monitoring relevant EU legislative developments, specifically focusing on dentistry and waste, in view of legislative pieces such as the EU Waste Framework Directive.

Moreover, a survey on vaccination practices for dentists was conducted within the CED members, assessing the requirements and recommendations in each country.

The overview of relevant scientific articles for the members' information and reference continued expanding and being updated on the CED website, under the WG section.

Next year, the Working Group will continue to focus on the topic of dentistry and waste management, as well as monitoring and reacting to EU legislative updates, and on any relevant developments related to patient safety and infection control.

Task Forces



Dr. Anna Lella
(Poland) Chair

01—Task Force Internal Market

The Task Force Internal Market remained engaged on the topic of workforce challenges, highlighting its concerns on the issue through the *CED Position on Dental Workforce*. The document was unanimously adopted at the CED General Meeting in May 2023. It offers concrete policy recommendations on solving imbalances in dental workforce numbers and distribution.

The Board Task Force continued its work on corporate dentistry, comparing the results of its latest 2022 survey to the CED members on the topic, with the information from the 2018 one. This comparison further highlighted that corporate dentistry is a trend that evolves and requires continuous focus by the CED. Considering this, the CED also strengthened its collaboration on the topic of corporate dentistry with the European Regional Organisation of the World Dental Federation.

The Board Task Force continued monitoring other issues of relevance to dentistry, such as developments in relation to the Proportionality Test Directive and to partial access. In 2024, the Board Task Force will continue working on the abovementioned issues, as well as other relevant topics that touch on the intersection between internal market and dentistry priorities.



02—Task Force Communications

In 2023 we focused on upgrading our social media presence by launching a more active CED LinkedIn account. We published another Annual Report, summarising the work of the CED in 2022. Last but not least, the CED revamped and relaunched its website, offering a more user-friendly and modern experience for members and visitors.

CED Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of eight members, elected by the General Meeting every three years. The Board carries out political leadership and secures proper and efficient administration of the CED.



Dr. Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg
President (Denmark)



Dr. Anna Lella
Vice-President (Poland)



Prof. Dr. Ioannis Tzoutzas
Treasurer (Greece)



Dr. Henner Bunke
Board Member (Germany)



Dr. Robin Foyle
Board Member (Ireland)



Dr. Charlotte Heuzé
Board Member (France)



Dr. Miguel Pavão
Board Member (Portugal)



Dr. Katalin Nagy
Board Member (Hungary)

CED Secretariat

The CED Secretariat monitors policy developments, maintains contacts with the European Institutions and stakeholders and implements the decisions taken by the General Meeting and the Board of Directors.



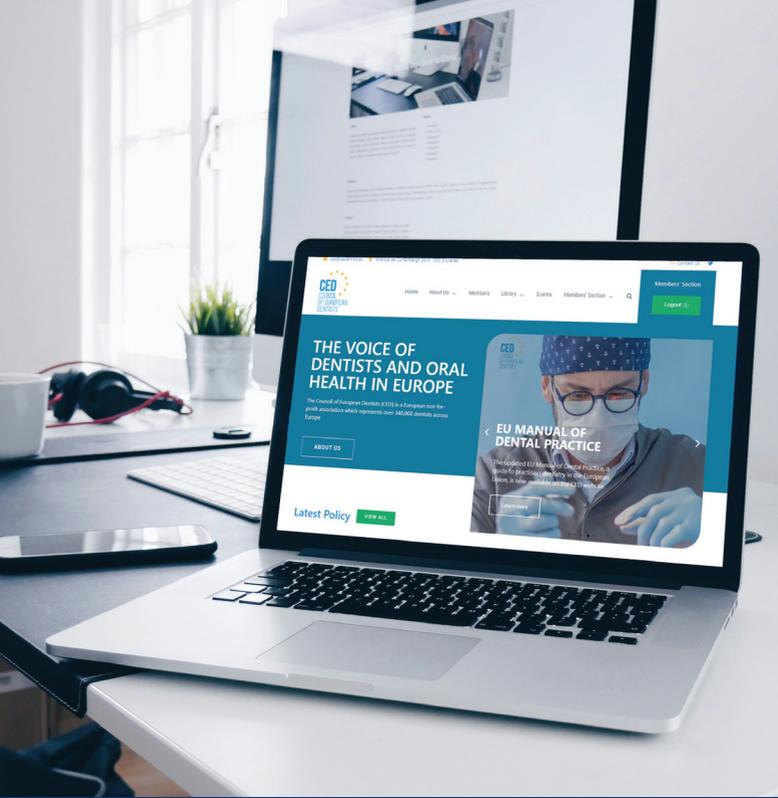
Ainhoa Zamacona
Office Manager



Daniela Timus
Policy Officer
– until January 2024



Nikoleta Arnaudova
Senior Policy Officer



CED Launches an Updated Website

The CED website was upgraded in October 2023. The new website is easier to navigate and more user friendly; the look has also been improved.

All the content of the old website was fully transferred to the new one keeping all the functionalities. The upgrade included both the public and the members only section of the website.

The content of the website is updated periodically including newly adopted policy papers, press releases and relevant news.

Members, Affiliate Members & Observers



Albania



Austria



Belgium — CMD



Belgium — VVT



Bulgaria



Croatia



Cyprus



Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary — Dental
Section of the
Hungarian Medical
Chamber



Hungary —
Hungarian Dental
Association



Iceland



Ireland



Italy — AIO



Italy — ANDI



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Lithuania



Luxembourg



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