

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS' NEWS UPDATE II, 2025, SEPTEMBER



Dear CED Members,

Welcome to the second edition of the CED News Update, launching this new academic and institutional semester for European dentistry after a restful summer break!

Our agenda focuses on remaining central issues as well as new topics of concern. This includes ensuring high quality of foreign trained diplomas and qualifications across EU Member States, promoting CPD for all practising professionals, maintaining pressure for keeping provenly safe dental devices on the market under the MDR, calling for reinforced and harmonised clinical training requirements, cybersecurity in dentistry, and addressing workforce challenges.

I would also like to remind you of the possibility of submitting information on the current activities, publications and events taking place in your respective national dental association. These updates will be included in the dedicated section on 'Contributions by CED Members'. You are therefore kindly invited to share any information of interest with the CED Secretariat.

On behalf of myself, the CED Board and the CED staff, sincere regards,

Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg

CED President

CED PRESIDENT AND BOARD ACTIVITIES

CED BOARD MEETING IN BRUSSELS, SEPTEMBER 2025

The CED Board met in Gdańsk, Poland on 22 May 2025 and gathered again on 24 September in Brussels to discuss key issues and priorities, and prior to the CED elections for the Board of Directors in November 2025.

ADEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING, DUBLIN, IRELAND, AUGUST 2025

The CED President and Board Director Katalin Nagy attended the annual CED meeting from 20 to 22 August, taking place, at this occasion, at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland. This event was the opportunity to reaffirm the CED and ADEE's ongoing collaboration for strengthening and harmonising dental education across Europe, including in relation to ADEE's Graduating European Dentist Curriculum Framework (GED). At the latest CED General Meeting in May, the CED members discussed the recognition of [ADEE's GED Curriculum Framework](#), as well as encouraged and supported future revisions of this common European framework, guiding European dental schools and dental educators in organising and delivering undergraduate dental education through a harmonised and comprehensive contemporary curriculum.



President Sloth-Lisbjerg at ADEE Annual Meeting opening session in Dublin. Image by ADEE.

CED PRIORITY THEMES

INTERNAL MARKET

EUROPEAN HEALTH WORKFORCE CRISES AND THE EU WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Across the EU, the **healthcare workforce** is under growing pressure. Recent initiatives, as well as parliamentary hearings and questions on workforce shortages, highlight how critical workforce issues have become. [The European Committee of the Regions has also emphasized](#) the need for stronger investment, fair working conditions, and strategies to address “medical deserts.”

As highlighted in [CED Dental Workforce Position Paper](#), dentistry is not immune to these challenges. Ageing populations, increasing demand for oral healthcare, and difficulties in recruiting and retaining dental professionals mirror the wider healthcare crisis. Without adequate workforce planning and investment in education and digital skills, access to timely and quality dental care risks being compromised. Now more than ever, dentistry must be part of the broader EU conversation on workforce resilience, ensuring oral health is not left behind in strategies shaping Europe’s healthcare future.

On 17 September, CED staff attended an online session on the Joint Action HEROES Policy Dialogue, which brought together EU institutions, Member States and stakeholders to discuss how health workforce development can drive health system transition and sustainability. The meeting focused on workforce planning, country implementation experiences, and sustaining HEROES results for long-term resilience. The [Health System and Policy Monitor \(HSPM\) Reform Tracker](#) by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies was highlighted. The tracker covers 600+ health reforms since 2018, including workforce-related changes, and helps countries compare and learn from each other.

ORAL HEALTH



CED WG Oral Health online meeting, 30 June 2025, image by CED.

The CED Working Group met online on 30 June 2025 and is planning its next meeting for Wednesday 8 October.

CED SHARES ITS POSITION ON

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH





CED has submitted its [input](#) to the European Commission's [Call for Evidence](#) for the adoption of a EU Cardiovascular Health Plan. The EU Cardiovascular Health Plan, foreseen to be adopted by the end of the fourth quarter of 2025, is one of the major announcements from the European Commission and Ursula von der Leyen in 2024 and is part of the set mission priorities of the Health Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi.

The goal of the Plan is to pool EU resources, expertise and tools, and thus, complement the policies and resources of Members States. It sets out 3 main action areas for curbing cardiovascular disease, including (1) prevention, (2) early detection and screening and (3) management, care and rehabilitation. *Source: European Commission*

The Commission has also announced, as part of this Plan, the suggested creation of an EU protocol on health checks for cardiovascular diseases. The CED therefore welcomed this focus but highlighted in its response the mutual interaction between oral and cardiovascular health and called upon the European Commission to embed oral health across all aspects of the EU Cardiovascular Health Plan.

The responses also underlined bidirectional relationship between cardiovascular and oral diseases, and recognising the role of dentists in the screening, prevention, and detection of oral and cardiovascular diseases, as well as the importance of treating oral diseases for the effective management and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The CED attached to its response the [CED Resolution](#) on Reducing Sugar Consumption and Preventing Oral Diseases.

REVISION OF THE TOBACCO TAXATION DIRECTIVE

Following the adoption of the [Council Recommendation on smoke-free and aerosol-free environments](#) at the close of 2024, extending smoke-free legislation to other outdoor spaces as well as to alternative tobacco and aerosol products, the Commission has taken a step further to revising the EU Tobacco Legislation with the adoption of a Proposal for a [revision of the Tobacco Taxation Directive](#) on 16 July 2025. This [revision](#) extends minimum tax rates to new tobacco and tobacco-free products (including e-cigarettes, heated tobacco and nicotine pouches), as well as increases and adjusts the respective minimum tax rates in each Member State, better aligning with countries' current economic situation and existing taxation rates. It also focuses on introducing monitoring measures of excise goods for better controlling the illicit trade of raw tobacco.

WG Oral Health is currently preparing a response to the call for feedback on the adopted revision.

In parallel to this adoption, the Commission presented on the 16 July 2025 its 2028-2034 [budget proposal](#), which introduces the suggested creation of a new Tobacco Excise Duty Own Resource. 15% of minimum excise rates of each country would go towards the EU budget.

EUROPEAN INITIATIVES FOR HEALTHY AGEING

Alongside [priorities](#) from the current Danish Presidency and the organisation of a high-level policy event on [supporting the future of ageing and long-term care](#), the Council ECOSOC Ministers adopted on 5 June [Council Conclusions](#) supporting older people in reaching their full potential in the labour market and society.

The document also states health promotion and disease prevention and effective healthcare for older adults, as a condition for ensuring that older people remain on the labour market with good working conditions through disability-free working years. The CED is monitoring these initiatives, as part of its recent work on ageing and oral health.

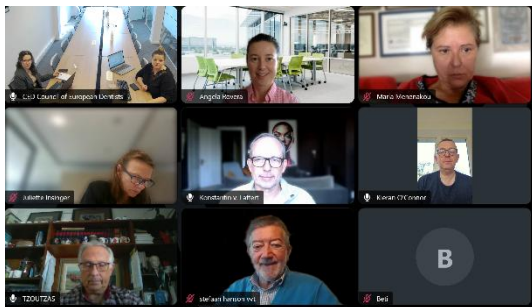
CHANGES IN ANTIBIOTIC AUTHORISATION

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) published on the 23 May 2025 [recommendations amending the authorised use of azithromycin](#), a prescribed antibiotic shown to carry a higher risk of antimicrobial resistance. EMA recommends restricting authorisation of antibiotic azithromycin prescriptions, applying to a number of clinical cases in the EU. Among the indications discontinued for systemic azithromycin use are those for certain dental infections, including periodontal abscesses and periodontitis.

NUTRITION AND SUGAR

WHO published on 5 September 2025 a [policy brief](#) on Food taxes for a healthy diet: time for action, advancing the effectiveness of fiscal policy in reducing unhealthy consumption patterns and promoting healthier diets.

The European Commission has however announced the abandonment of the previously launched [EU school scheme](#) legal framework on fruit, vegetables and milk on 25 July, which encompassed “health promotion through access to healthy diets”. The Commission however published a [new proposal](#) on 18 July, which will focus primarily on products “made in Europe”.



CED WG PSICWM online meeting, 15 September 2025, image by CED.

PATIENT SAFETY, INFECTION CONTROL, WASTE MANAGEMENT

On 15 September, the Working Group on Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management met to discuss the topic of custom-made mouthguards. Participants shared insights on current practices, regulatory considerations, and safety standards in relation to this topic. A CED position on the topic is currently being developed ahead of the November General Meeting.

MEDICAL DEVICES AND DENTAL MATERIALS



WG Medical Devices and Dental Materials held its third meeting of 2025 on 16 September, focusing on the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) and its implications for dentistry. Members exchanged views on the practical challenges faced by dental professionals, discussed possible solutions, and considered how to ensure that safe and effective devices remain available to patients under the current regulatory framework.

CED WG DMMD online meeting, 16 September 2025, image by CED.

MEDICAL DEVICE REGULATION – CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES:

In the first quarter of 2025, CED discussed the European Commission's consultation on the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) in the working group, resulting in the submission of detailed feedback. A factual summary of the input from all stakeholders on the consultation has been published by the European Commission [here](#).

At its latest meeting, the WG DMMD also discussed the recently launched [call by the European Commission on Medical devices and in vitro diagnostics – targeted revision of EU rules](#). The call is **open until 6 October**. The main CED concerns were underlined in its reply, namely the need to keep provenly safe devices on the market, the fact that recertification is not necessary for such devices, the need to ensure that dentists can truly focus on delivering patient care as opposed to dealing with more administrative burdens, the health institution definition.

So far, a proposal for legislative revision of the MDR is expected to be published towards end of this year or the beginning of next.

E-HEALTH

The next **meeting of the WG eHealth is taking place on 16 October**.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Artificial intelligence continues to shape the future of healthcare, from improving diagnostics and treatment planning to enhancing patient outcomes. Its influence is equally evident in dentistry, where it supports early detection and personalised care. On 15 July 2025, the Publications Office of the European Union released the [Final Report of the Study on the Deployment of AI in Healthcare](#). The report explores the current barriers to integrating AI in clinical practice, including technological and regulatory hurdles, and sets out strategic recommendations along with a monitoring framework to ensure a safe, ethical, and effective implementation of AI across EU healthcare systems.

Specifically in relation to the interplay between the AI Act and the Medical Device Regulation, the European Commission has published [MDCG 2025-6 - FAQ on Interplay between the Medical Devices Regulation & In vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulation and the Artificial Intelligence Act \(June 2025\)](#).

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

WG EPQ held its latest meeting on 1 September, with discussions gravitating around the quality of the dental workforce and standards of foreign dental diplomas.

EU RECOGNITION OF DENTAL DIPLOMAS

The published [Union of Skills](#) initiative, published in March 2025, is currently being followed through. The initiative includes a project for developing a Skills Portability Initiative.

This initiative is in its exploratory stages and aims to increase the use of AI and digital tools to facilitate, expand and modernise recognition processes for regulated professions. The Commission has indeed expressed on several occasions the wish to “simplify” the recognition of skills and qualifications.

Along this line, the European Commission Group of Coordinators (GoC), responsible for the recognition of professional qualifications, has also been considering during its [June meeting](#) proposals for simplifying and extending automatic recognition for regulated professions under the PQD. These proposals include suggestions to streamline the recognition process through digital tools.

WG EPQ as well as the GoC is still expecting the publication of the Implementation Report on the PQD, which saw important delays due to the current restructuring of the European Commission and is foreseen to be finalised by the end of 2025. The WG is following closely the developments on these files.



CED WG EPQ online meeting, 1 September 2025, image by CED

9DISCUSSION OF ADEE’S GRADUATING EUROPEAN DENTIST (GED) CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Picture: ADEE website



The latest May General Meeting, Chair of WG Education and Professional Qualifications discussed the recognition of [ADEE’s Graduating European Dentist](#) (GED) curriculum framework. The GED is a harmonised and comprehensive contemporary curriculum developed by ADEE, providing guiding resources and curriculum framework reflecting best academic practice for European undergraduate dental education.

Its goal is to encourage further harmonisation and promote high quality dental education across European dental schools. This includes providing additional guidelines and resources for national regulators, educators and heads of dental schools, in the absence of a mutually agreed curriculum

framework going beyond the subject list of Annex V, the lack of a competence-based approach and strong language under the Professional Qualifications Directive.

The CED therefore encourages national dental associations to promote the GED curriculum framework to its national competent authorities and Ministries of Education, as well as to national dental schools for the uptake of a strong and competence-based approach for undergraduate dental studies.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY CED MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

The purpose of this section is to promote topics or updates from events from our members that would be of interest to the rest of the CED membership base. Please share your suggestions and ideas for topics you would like us to consider adding for the upcoming editions by emailing ced@cedentists.eu

THE 20TH EUROPEAN DAY OF THE GERMAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (BZÄK)

On July 16, at the occasion of the German Dental Association's 20th celebration of European Day, BZÄK representatives had the opportunity to exchange with representatives of EU institutions, including German MEP Oliver Schenk, and health associations, on major challenges placing increasing pressure on European dentistry.

Throughout the discussion, a strong emphasis was placed on prevention, by BZÄK President Prof. Dr. Christoph Benz, and developed by Prof. Dr. Rainer Jordan through the presentation of the Sixth German Oral Health Study (DMS 6).



*BZÄK European Day panel discussion, 16 July 2025.
Picture: BZÄK by Alexander Louvet*

KNMT VISIT TO CED OFFICES IN BRUSSELS



The Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT) visited the CED offices in Brussels on 10 September. Dr. Hans de Vries, Juliette Insinger and the CED staff discussed key priorities for dentistry at the Dutch national level, as well as the work and functioning of the CED and its current advocacy and policy activities towards EU institutions in Brussels. They also discussed key issues regarding the support needed for foreign-trained dentists, clinical training requirements, continuing professional development, lack of European data on dental workforce and education, among others.



KNMT President Dr. Hans de Vries, Chief Advisor for KNMT International Relations Juliette Insinger and CED Staff, 10 September 2025, image by CED.

UPCOMING CED EVENTS

CED NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING, BRUSSELS

The next CED General Meeting will take place at the [Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel](#) (Brussels National Airport, Brussels, Belgium, 1930), from 09:00 to 17:00 on Friday, 14th November 2025.

Edited by CED Senior Policy Officer Nikoleta Arnaudova and Policy Officers Elif Dincher and Clara Luciani.

For more information, ideas for contributions and other questions, please reach out to ced@cedentists.eu