

Dentists on the front lines of COVID-19

About the CED

**The Council of European Dentists (CED)
is the representative organisation for the
dental profession in the EU.**

**Over 340,000 practicing professionals
from 33 national dental associations
from 31 European countries (28 Full Members,
4 Affiliate Members and 1 Observer).**



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2020 at a glance

31 January

CED subgroup on dental amalgam (WG Chair Dr. Jane Renehan and other members of the Working Group and CED staff) participated in the European Commission's Final stakeholder workshop: Assessment of the feasibility of phasing-out dental amalgam



13 February

CED Director Prof. Dr. Paulo Melo and CED staff represented CED at the Workshop on health promotion and disease prevention in health and educational settings in Luxembourg

14 February

Working Group eHealth meeting in Brussels



17 February

Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications meeting in Brussels

19 February

CED staff participated in the launch of the MEP Interest Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) "AMR: Setting the agenda for change" with interventions from European Commissioner for Health Stella Kyriakides



26 February

Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices meeting in Brussels



27 February

Working Group Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management meeting in Brussels

9 March

CED staff at the EU Coalition for Vaccination annual meeting

13 March

CED Board online meeting



March

CED launched the first in a series of surveys, in order to gather information from CED members regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in their country. Based on the results of the survey, the CED continued to provide regular overviews of the situation in CED member countries throughout the year

19 March

CED organized a webinar on Italian dentists' response to COVID-19

20 March

On World Oral Health Day, CED collaborated with FDI World Dental Federation in an Oral Health global awareness campaign

4 March

CED published its Press Release "European dentists in the fight against COVID-19"

27 March

CED's co-authored Press Release "Healthcare professionals urge authorities to guarantee protection to those in front lines against COVID-19"

22 May

CED President Dr. Marco Landi attended the European Dental Students' Roundtable discussion of the future of dentistry, alongside ADEE¹ and EDSA² representatives

15 June

CED was invited to comment on the ECDC's draft report Technical Report COVID-19 infection prevention and control for primary care, including general practitioner practices, dental clinics and pharmacy settings

¹ADEE - Association for Dental Education in Europe

²EDSA - European Dental Students' Association

11 September

Working Group Dental Materials and Medical Devices online meeting

18 September

CED Board online meeting



23 September

Working Group eHealth online meeting

30 September

Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications online meeting

20 November

CED held its first online General Meeting





President's perspective

2020 was a challenging year for us all, both professionally and personally. It marked the year of the pandemic, of uncertainty and insecurity. The COVID-19 public health crisis continues to have devastating health, social and economic consequences, affecting the delivery of health services, more than a year after the emergence of the first cases.

Dentistry was directly affected by the pandemic. At its very start, dental practices faced restrictions on their functioning and in a few European countries dental offices were closed. After a few months during which the provision of dental care was reduced to urgent care, the use of appropriate protective equipment and relevant safety protocols allowed most European dentists to resume most oral care. Since the first days of the pandemic, dentists, alongside other healthcare professionals, were on the front lines of COVID-19, striving to ensure that their patients receive safe and high-quality care.

I was personally involved in the first outbreak of COVID-19 in Codogno, Italy. The direct experience, as President of the local Dental Chamber in Lodi, in organising dentists in the so-called “red zone” was helpful in foreseeing similar scenarios in other EU countries.

As expected, all areas of the CED work were impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. With the cancelation of physical events and meetings, we had to shift our activities to the digital realm, by organizing online working level meetings, webinars, and surveys. We took on a coordinating role and collected and shared national experiences of dentists in adjusting to COVID-19. We worked with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to ensure that their guidance for dental practices reflected best available science and practical experience of European dentists. Our concerted efforts allowed us to hold an online General Meeting, paramount for the continuity of the CED policy work. Despite the omnipresence of COVID-19, we continued our work on other topics of relevance for dentists, such as medical devices and dental materials, antimicrobial resistance, digital health, vaccination, patient safety, education, health promotion and disease prevention.

This year, we witnessed the work of European institutions being influenced by the public health crisis. To help repair the economic and social damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the

European Commission, the European Parliament and EU leaders agreed on a recovery plan that will be the largest stimulus package ever financed through the EU budget. A total of €1.8 trillion will aim at rebuilding a post-COVID-19 Europe. Moreover, the European Commission is continuously coordinating a common European response to the public health crisis. In its response to the coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission is taking resolute actions to reinforce the public health sectors and mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. The implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the new EU4Health Programme, the European Health Union, the Just Transition Fund, the Green Deal and the Digital Europe Programme, are steps taken towards better preparedness, recovery, and resilience in a greener, more digital, and more resilient Europe.

I look back to 2020 with great admiration for the hard work of the numerous actors driving CED forward – members, experts active in our working groups and task forces, the Board of Directors, and the secretariat. The COVID-19 pandemic represents a challenge from many points of view. Nonetheless, it can also be seen as an opportunity to shift dentistry towards a less invasive and more preventive approach, one in which the dental teams work in partnership to tackle the common risks for oral and other major non-communicable diseases. I am confident that European dentists will continue to mitigate the consequences of the pandemic in 2021 in order to ensure that the profession continues to evolve and continues to safeguard the health and safety of our patients.

Dr. Marco Landi
President (Italy)

Policy

CED Statement – Dentistry and Patient Safety During the COVID-19 Pandemic

CED Statement – Safe and Effective Dental Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

CED Resolution on Patient Safety

CED Resolution on Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry

CED Position on Implant Cards for Dentistry

CED Resolution on Annex V.3/5.3.1 of Directive 2005/36/EC (PQD)

COVID 19 Positions

EUROPEAN DENTISTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

**CED Press Release
24 March 2020**

“Across Europe, dentists are contributing to the efforts to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), while still providing safe and high-quality treatment to their patients, in line with relevant national and local regulations.

With a growing number of Member States restricting provision of dental care to medical emergencies, dentists are struggling to fulfill their obligations to care for their patients and at the same time prevent the transmission of the virus. [...] Where this is allowed by national regulation, dentists support the remaining parts of the health systems, particularly hospital emergency services, by treating urgent oral health cases who would otherwise seek help in the already overburdened hospitals.”

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS URGE AUTHORITIES TO GUARANTEE PROTECTION TO THOSE IN FRONT LINES AGAINST COVID-19

**European health professionals and students'
organisations Press Release
27 March 2020**

“The European health professionals and their students’ organisations are calling on the European Commission and the governments to support and protect healthcare professionals fighting Covid-19. Staff must be provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and must be regularly tested, regardless of reported symptoms or exposure.

As Europe has become the global center of the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare professionals are working hard to contain the spread of the virus, putting themselves at risk to protect the communities.”

COVID 19 Positions

SAFETY OF DENTISTRY IN TIMES OF COVID-19

**CED Press Release
09 November 2020**

“Patient safety is one of the foremost objectives of the profession and while ensuring that the dental team is complying with both existing and new guidelines, the lack of clear recommendations and scientific data related to dentistry could be hindering the oral and general health of all Europeans. Oral care, including not only urgent and essential dental treatment but also preventive and conservative care should be considered as essential healthcare and should not be postponed until the COVID-19 pandemic is resolved.”

The CED President, Dr. Marco Landi: “European Dentists have always been committed to providing up-to-date, safe, high quality oral care, as well as minimizing risks related to oral care. Since the beginning of the pandemic, dentists have been in the front line, alongside other healthcare professionals, providing safe treatment, while staying committed to their patients' wellbeing, and should continue providing usual responsible care despite the circumstances”.

EUROPEAN DENTISTS ADOPT STATEMENTS ON COVID-19

CED STATEMENT – Dentistry and patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic

“Despite the new circumstances created by COVID-19, dentistry remains a safe profession for dental patients, members of the dental team and dentists themselves. Effective personal protective equipment is applied to protect both the dental personnel and the patient, and appropriate protocols are followed. Therefore, the adopted Statement recommends a continuous provision of dental care services during the pandemic.”

CED STATEMENT – Safe and effective Dental Education during the COVID-19 pandemic

“The CED calls on European academic institutions and the dental education community to work together to provide safe, inclusive and welcoming learning and working environments for all members of our community during these challenging times.

Moreover, the CED reflects in this Statement the need for a dental curricula shift, to achieve a balance between in-person and online teaching, and to identify a set of minimum requirements in order to ensure adequate dental education.”

Working Groups



Dr. Jane Renchan
(Ireland) Chair

01—Dental Materials and Medical Devices

In the course of 2020, the Working Group updated its mandate and continued its activity on relevant issues related to medical devices and dental materials. The Working Group was invested in the topic of dental amalgam, similarly to previous years. A subgroup dedicated to dental amalgam participated in the European Commission's Final stakeholder workshop: Assessment of the feasibility of phasing-out dental amalgam. Following the publication of the final report on the Feasibility of Phasing-out Dental Amalgam by the Deloitte consultancy, as well as a report by the European Commission, the Working Group replied to both reports.

The members prepared a CED position on dental implants, recommending the implant card as a best practice.

On the matter of cobalt, the Working Group has been reaching out to external stakeholders and has gathered scientific evidence internally to continue exploring the topic.

Other topics of interest were endocrine disrupters and particularly, the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, titanium dioxide and phthalates.



Dr. Piret Väli
(Estonia) Chair
- until Nov 2020

02—eHealth

Promotion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and exploitation of the Big Data potential have been identified as top priorities by the current European Parliament and European Commission. In line with the active agenda of the European Institutions on these topics, the Working Group prepared the CED position on AI, covering the impact of AI on dentistry and healthcare and replied to the consultation on the Commission White Paper on the topic.



Alexander Tolmeijer
(Netherlands) Chair
- since Nov 2020

In addition, the WG has participated in consultations on the Digital Services Act and on Health Data in the light of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), recommending the development of a set of quality criteria for online platforms reviewing dentists and stressing the need to grant dentists access to relevant health-related information.

In 2021, the WG will continue its work on the eHealth Competency model followed by a set of necessary digital skills specific to dentists, under the chairmanship on Dr. Alexander Tolmeijer, approved in November 2020 as the new Chair of the WG eHealth.



Prof. Dr. Paulo Melo
(Portugal) Chair

03—Education and Professional Qualifications

The Working Group focused its work on the CED Resolution on the Annex V.3/5.3.1. of the Professional Qualifications Directive. The Working Group replied to the study based on the CED call for update of the subjects lists for dental professionals, to make sure that European dental curricula correspond to the reality and contribute to safeguarding the future of the profession.

Due to the imminent threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the European dental education, the Working Group prepared a statement on the minimum requirements for dental education in times of COVID-19.

The Working Group continued the collaboration with BTF Internal Market on workforce challenges and on potential solutions, focusing on digital skills, public health threats, bureaucracy, corporate dentistry, undergraduate education and attractiveness of the profession.

In 2021, the work will continue focusing on workforce challenges and other education-related issues.



Dr. Henk Donker
(Netherlands) Chair

04—Oral Health

In 2020 the Working Group updated its mandate after merging with the Board Task Force Antibiotics in Dentistry and added to its working agenda the topic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

With the launch of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, the Working Group was involved in the topic of cancer following the European Parliament Special Committee on Cancer work and participated in the HPV Action Network within the European Cancer Organisation, highlighting the urgency of oral cancer and dentists' involvement in its early diagnosis.

On the topic of vaccination, the Working Group reflected CED's work in the EU Coalition for Vaccination advocacy campaign. Additionally, the CED co-signed the Coalition's Manifesto on vaccination to encourage healthcare professionals to get vaccinated and highlight the key role played by healthcare professionals in the vaccination roll out, as builders of public trust.

In 2021, the Working Group will be focusing on oral health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside ageing, AMR and non-communicable diseases.



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

05—Patient Safety, Infection Control and Waste Management

The Working Group updated the CED Resolution on Patient Safety emphasising that only a properly educated, fully qualified dentists can ensure safe dental care.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the CED has been sending regular mailings to the Members with the most relevant information on the outbreak. The Working Group has provided support to the CED response to the draft European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Technical Report ‘COVID-19 infection prevention and control for primary care, including general practitioner practices, dental clinics and pharmacy settings. Moreover, the Working Group was active in preparing a political statement on COVID-19, dentistry and patient safety, expressing the CED concerns regarding the potential hindering of oral and general health of all Europeans and recommending the continuity of dental care services provision during the pandemic.

In the following months, the Working Group will continue working on the public health crisis and monitoring new European initiatives, such as the Green Deal.

Task Forces



Dr. Hans Schrangl
(Austria) Chair

01—Antibiotics in Dentistry

AMR has been high on the European health agenda in 2020. Similarly to previous years, the Task Force took part in the European Antibiotic Awareness Day organised by the ECDC. CED contributed to the campaign by distributing relevant information on the topic and relating it to the role played by dentists in tackling AMR. Additionally, CED was active through the Task Force during the regular meetings and activities of the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) AMR Stakeholder Network. The CED endorsed the “Roadmap for Action on Antimicrobial Resistance 5 key strategies to tackle this global threat” developed in the framework of the Network and participated in the launch of the MEP Interest Group on AMR “AMR: Setting the agenda for change” with interventions from European Commissioner for Health Stella Kyriakides and several Members of the European Parliament.

As a stakeholder in the EU-Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-Associated Infections (EU-JAMRAI), the CED contributed to implementing JAMRAI actions and is currently hosting on its website relevant documents on AMR produced by JAMRAI.

Due to the merger of the Task Force with the Working Group Oral Health, AMR was included in the mandate of the latter and will continue being a priority for the CED.



Dr. Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg
(Denmark) Chair

02—Internal Market

In 2020 the Board Task Force has been working on the Proportionality Test Directive, launching a survey on quality assessment procedures in dentistry in different countries. Consequently, the Task Force was able to collect and analyze examples based on which a future quality model could be constructed. The topic was added to the agenda of the next year, alongside topics such as partial access, corporate dentistry and advertising. In addition, the Task Force has been collaborating with Working Group Education and Professional Qualifications on the challenges of the workforce, a topic which will be translated into a CED position paper in the future.



Nina Brandelet-Bernot
Secretary General

03—Communications

In 2020, the focus of the Task Force shifted to the virtual realm, organizing a webinar on the topic of COVID-19 and dentistry, as well as offering support to the CED members in various publications and online events. As in previous years, the Task Force contributed to the preparation of the yearly CED publication - the Annual Report and was engaged in the CED social media presence.

CED EDSA Intern

In the first part of 2020, the CED-EDSA intern continued being involved in various aspects of CED work, including activities of Working Groups and Task Forces, communication activities and administrative tasks. During the last months of the internship, the intern focused mainly on the update of one of the main CED publications – the EU Manual of Dental Practice, under the guidance of a Board Task Force. The intern took part in the organization of several events and meetings.

Due to the COVID-19 impact on work and travel, it was decided to postpone the CED-EDSA internship programme until circumstances allow the new intern to be physically present in the Brussels office and take advantage of the multiple events and meetings organized throughout the year.

We look forward to welcoming the next intern, as this position provides a crucial link between the CED and the European Dental Students Association, facilitating close collaboration of the two organisations and bringing the students' and young professionals' point of view to the table.

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. Marco Landi
President (Italy)



Dr. Piret Väli
Vice-President
(Estonia)



Dr. Hans Schrangl
Director (Austria)



Dr. Doniphan Hammer
Director (France)



Prof. Dr. Paulo Melo
Director (Portugal)



Dr. Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg
Director (Denmark)



Dr. Henk Donker
Treasurer (Netherlands)



Dr. Henner Bunke
Director (Germany)

Secretariat

The CED Secretariat is composed of a permanent staff of four. It constantly 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.



Nina Brandelet-Bernot
Secretary General



Aneta Tyszkiewicz
Senior Policy Officer
– until July 2020



Caroline Heilpern
Policy Officer



Ainhoa Zamacona
Office Manager



Daniela Timuş
Policy Officer
- since Aug 2020

Members, Affiliate Members & Observers



Albania



Austria



Belgium – VVT



Belgium – CSD



Bulgarian Dental Association



Croatia



Cyprus



Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



Germany



Greece



Hungary - Dental Section of the Hungarian Medical Chamber



Hungary - Hungarian Dental Association



Iceland



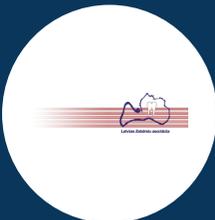
Ireland



Italy - ANDI



Italy - AIO



Latvia



Lithuania



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