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## **CED ELECTS NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS; ADOPTS POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM; ESTABLISHES NEW WORKING GROUP ON GENERAL ORAL HEALTH**

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Delegates of CED member and observer associations met in Brussels on 19 November for a regular six-monthly General Meeting.

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents over 320,000 practising dentists across Europe. It is composed of national dental associations and chambers from 30 European countries. Its key objectives are to promote high standards of oral healthcare and effective patient-safety centred professional practice across Europe, including through regular contacts with other European organisations and EU institutions.

### **NEW MEMBERS OF THE CED BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

CED members elected four new members of the CED Board of Directors. Dr. Susie Sanderson (United Kingdom) became the new Treasurer and three delegates were elected Directors: Dr. Peter Engel (Germany), Dr. Pirkko Grönroos (Finland) and Dr. Roland L'Herron (France). They join CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus (Austria) and Directors Dr. Marco Landi (Italy), Dr. Francisco Rodríguez Lozano (Spain) and Dr. Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria) who were elected in 2009.

CED Board of Directors is composed of eight members who share the powers of administration of the organisation, including communication and representation of the CED towards third parties, in particular the European Institutions, as well as implementation of CED policy and financial management. Directors, who must be dental practitioners, are elected for a period of three years.

### **CED POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM**

In anticipation of the review of the EU Mercury Strategy, CED members unanimously adopted a new resolution on dental amalgam. They stressed that amalgam is a safe and highly effective restorative material and that in the interests of public health, a phase down of amalgam will only be appropriate when an alternative and suitable restorative material is



available. They called on European governments to foster effective prevention of dental caries through health promotion programs which will result in the phase down of use of current restorative materials, including dental amalgam. They predicted that the pace of improvement of oral health will vary from country to country depending on such factors as the level of existing disease, particularly in disadvantaged communities, and the investment of national governments in health promotion.

Research over many decades has failed to show any significant health risk posed by dental amalgam either to patients, dental staff or the public. Dental amalgam continues to be the most appropriate filling material for many restorations, due to its ease of use, durability and cost-effectiveness. Restrictions on the use of amalgam would damage the financial stability of health systems as well as impact on individual patients' ability to afford dental care.

**Link to CED documents library for resolution:**

**CED Resolution: [Dental Amalgam](#)**

## **CED WORKING GROUP ON ORAL HEALTH**

CED members agreed to form a new working group responsible for preparing CED policy in a number of areas related to general oral health: disease prevention and health promotion, tobacco, alcohol, nutrition, diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancers, health inequalities, children, ageing etc.

In recommendations from the discussion on the European strategy for oral health during the EU Presidency conference on health strategies in Europe in 2007 the CED already stressed the importance of oral health as an integral part of general health and well-being. In addition, the major risk factors for oral diseases are the same for major non-communicable diseases such as obesity, heart disease, stroke, cancers, diabetes and mental illness. Consequently, oral health promotion needs to be better integrated into general health promotion and EU Member States need to increase their support for oral health promotion programs.

The new working group is expected to carry forward these recommendations and to develop in detail CED positions on specific related issues. As one of its first tasks, CED Working Group Oral Health will prepare a response from the perspective of the dental profession to the European Commission's public consultation on the review of the Tobacco products directive (Directive 2001/37/EC).

**Link to CED documents library for recommendations:**

**CED Resolution: [Recommendations of oral health workshop](#)**

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