



The year 2023 is drawing to a close

Dear colleagues,

The good news is that COVID-19 is largely contained and the WHO does not expect any pandemic outbreaks this winter. However, we should be aware that we will continue to have to live with mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 virus—just like with the flu virus.

The bad news is that the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR) continues to be a source of confusion, incomprehension and, dare I say, incompetence on the part of the regulators. The tense situation in the dental market has not changed. The BDIZ EDI was quick to point out the threat of “regulatory overkill”, and unfortunately this prediction has come true. Many dental manufacturers—especially medium-sized ones—that make innovative products have given up. This is partly because of the increasing regulatory pressure, but also because of the high cost of certification and re-certification. This was confirmed to us by Prof. Ulrich Gassner, the founding director of the Research Centre for E-Health Law (EMPR) at the University of Augsburg. There is an immense shortage of Notified Bodies; the few that do exist are completely overburdened. Under pressure from the German states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, the EU Commission has now set up a task force to exert a “sub-legislative” influence to speed up at least the certification of already existing products—including dental implants.

In passing, it should be mentioned that the BDIZ EDI has filed an administrative complaint against the German Scale of Fees (GOZ) for dentists in private practice in order to force the German Minister of Health to finally explain why the point value that determines what amount of money can be charged for what service has not been increased for sixty-five (65!) years and why unequal treatment persists within and between the fee scales used in Germany.

But there is also good reason to look forward to 2024. In February 2024, we will produce our 19th Guideline. Our Guidelines recommend specific courses of action for dentists working in oral implantology. This time, the topic will be digital dentistry and the opportunities and limitations associated with modern treatment concepts. Take a look at the programme in this issue and join us in Cologne during the carnival season. You are cordially invited to attend the 19th Expert Symposium. In anticipation of the symposium the European Consensus Conference (EuCC) will produce a working paper for the 19th Guideline that will be presented in the upcoming issue of the *EDI Journal*.

Another highlight awaits you in Split, Croatia in May. We are planning an international implantology congress with the support of the Croatian Dental Chamber. I look forward to welcoming you personally to the beautiful city of Split. You will find the details in this issue.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to our social media activities. Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, X/Twitter and YouTube and keep up to date with our training courses, political activities and publications for practitioners.

We wish you and your families all the best for the coming festive season and a prosperous new year 2024.

Christian Berger, President BDIZ EDI