



Council of European Dentists

Call for speedy revalidation of medical devices

The General Meeting of the Council of European Dentists (CED) was held in Brussels, Belgium in November 2023. One of the issues addressed by this umbrella association of dental associations of the EU member states was the recognition of dental qualifications acquired in third countries.

The agenda of the General Meeting, chaired by CED President Dr Freddie Sloth-Lisbjerg, included an update on the cooperation between the European Regional Organization (ERO) of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale (FDI) and the CED. In a joint task force, the two organisations want to work to strengthen the dental profession in competition with dental chains in Europe.

No to DIY orthodontics

At the Brussels meeting, the delegates adopted several policy statements. These include a position paper

on direct-to-consumer orthodontics, in which the CED expresses its concern about the spread of “do-it-yourself”/“direct-to-consumer” dentistry (DIY/DTC), particularly in the field of orthodontics. The CED believes that the well-being of patients is at risk if any of these procedures are carried out without a comprehensive orthodontic diagnosis and without the supervision of a specialist; the latter should be made mandatory in all stages of treatment, as strongly recommended by the CED.

A statement on dentistry and the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) was also adopted. The CED holds that “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." In their motion, the delegates call for consistent rules for the duties of dentists within the "MDR ecosystem". Dental medical devices "that have been considered safe and reliable for years (...) under the previous EU medical devices legislation on medical devices should be revalidated and recertified permanently and without restrictions." This would reduce the burdensome bureaucratic process of recertification under the new MDR, with no risk to the patient.

Call for standardised recognition procedures

In its position on the recognition of dental qualifications acquired in third countries, the CED recommends, for example, that all EU member states introduce standardised recognition procedures for these qualifications. However, these procedures must ensure that such recognition is in line with established min-

imum educational requirements. In addition, any simplified or accelerated recognition procedures should be aligned with European standards.

No vote was taken on the CED White Paper on waste management in dentistry. "The delegations from Germany, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Norway expressed their concern that the paper in its current form could be interpreted by national authorities as a call for even more regulation of dental practices," according to the Brussels office of the German Dental Association (BZÄK). The White Paper has therefore been referred back to the relevant CED working group and will be discussed again at the next General Meeting in Athens in May 2024.

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