President's speech at the 2025 Annual Meeting of BDIZ EDI in Augsburg



BDZI EDI relies on continuity

**Dear colleagues,
dear friends on the board,
dear Thomas,**

I am pleased to welcome you to this year's Annual Meeting here in Augsburg.

I am particularly pleased because today, with your vote, you will set the course for the future work of your association's board for the next four years. Last year, at the Conference of Experts on Implantology in Dresden, we celebrated the 35th anniversary of the BDIZ EDI, and we were honoured to invite our founding members to mark the occasion. I would particularly like to send my warm regards to Werner Hotz, who is unable to join us today due to family commitments. As this term of office comes to an end, I would like to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to the members of the board for their dedication and commitment: Joachim Zöller, Wolfgang Neumann, Stefan Liepe and Jörg Neugebauer, as well as Renate Tischer, Markus Tröltzsch, Detlef Hildebrand, Nathalie Kashin and Freimut Vizethum.

I would also like to thank our friend and legal advisor Thomas Ratajczak, as well as Anita Wuttke, Helga and Mirjam Karanikas, and Nicole Schildberg.

Thank you all for your invaluable contributions.

Politics and policies

Before turning to today's agenda, I would like to make a few remarks about the recent federal elections in Germany and the resulting changes to German health policy. The outcome of the election ultimately came as no surprise, especially following the dissolution of the so-called "traffic lights" coalition. From the perspective of the dental profession, there is little left to be said about Karl Lauterbach's time in office. He became hopelessly entangled in a web of self-initiated reforms and showed little regard for the needs of physicians and dentists in private practice. We all breathed a collective sigh of relief when it became clear that the Federal Ministry of Health would return to the centre-right CDU. Although Nina Warken, the new Federal Minister of Health, is entering new territory with her appointment as Federal Minister of Health, her early statements have raised hopes. She has adopted a pragmatic approach to her new role. For example, she recently emphasised that treatment costs for welfare recipients must be fully covered by the federal budget. BDIZ EDI has already reached out to minister Warken and her team to explain at an early stage the rationale behind the association's decision to initiate legal proceedings against the Federal Ministry of Health before the administrative

court in Berlin. I will return to the details of the case later in my report. However, we must not delude ourselves: what we need is an increase in the point value, not a revolving door of health ministers.

Together with my report for 2024/2025, I would like to offer a review of the past four years of intensive work during this term of office. Reports on the 2025 Expert Symposium, the European Consensus Conference and the curricula, as well as the 2025 Conference of Experts on Implantology, have been or will be presented separately.

Let us look back at the past four years in chronological order: 2021

In 2021, we welcomed Markus Tröltzsch, a young oral and maxillofacial surgeon, to the board. Since joining, he has contributed constructively to the association's work, initiating and implementing new projects, with more still to come. At the 2021 Annual Meeting, which took place in the year that the WHO officially declared the end of the pandemic, we reported that BDIZ EDI had offered and conducted more than 40 online seminars during the pandemic period. These covered topics such as continuing education in dentistry, billing support, and legal matters, reaching over 12,000 participants directly.

2022

We also renewed our political commitment, of course. Karl Lauterbach imposed budget restrictions on contractual dental services within statutory health insurance (SHI) for 2023 and 2024. This posed a serious threat to the preventive care framework for systematic periodontal treatment, which was introduced into SHI in 2021 alongside some new services. In response, we issued a press release urging patients to start necessary periodontitis treatment before the end of 2022.

2023

Since 1 January 2023, BDIZ EDI has officially been headquartered in Munich at Lipowskystraße 12. Helga Karanikas, who joined the team back in 2018, is based there. Having previously worked as an assistant to the President of the Bavarian Chamber of Dentists, she is now responsible for member administration, the day-to-day running of the office, parts of the event organisation and bookkeeping. Nicole Schildberg has also joined the team, primarily handling event bookings and liaising with speakers, hotels and other partners. Mirjam Karanikas supports the back office with membership administration matters and manages orders from the online shop. Even back in Helmut Engels's day, BDIZ EDI had employed three full-time members of staff. This number remains the same, although everyone now works part-time.

For several years now, the association has been engaged with the EU Medical Device Regulation (MDR). In 2023, we were once again compelled to make public statements on the matter once again. Although the European Commission decided to postpone the full implementation of recertifying existing products under the MDR by one year, the fundamental issues surrounding this process remain unresolved. BDIZ EDI continues to criticise the European Commission for its unrelenting commitment to what can only be de-



In 2023 BDIZ EDI initiated a lawsuit against the German Ministry of Health before the administration court in Berlin to raise the standard fee schedule for dentists (GOZ).



scribed as a bureaucratic monster. There are still too few notified bodies. The certification process is as complicated as it is expensive. Medium-sized and small companies with small-scale production are particularly affected. In an anonymous 2019 BDIZ EDI survey of the dental industry, more than 45 per cent of participating manufacturers said they would withdraw products from the market due to the MDR. For oral implantology, this would be a particularly serious setback. Unfortunately, our concerns have become reality—and the situation has only worsened.

Just in time for IDS 2023, the association demanded that the Federal Ministry of Health finally raises the point value that governs dentists' fees when treating patients with private health insurance (PHI)—something that has not happened in over 65 years. The Ratajczak law office sent a formal letter to minister Lauterbach, requesting a response by a specific deadline. The message was clear: should he fail to respond, six dentists would initiate legal action before the Administrative Court in Berlin.

And what can I say? Lauterbach did not respond, to no one's great surprise. At the initiative of BDIZ EDI, our legal advisor therefore proceeded to file the lawsuit. The association is suing the Federal Ministry of Health for failing to act, specifically for not adjusting the point value and for inequalities in fee schedules. After all, during the same period, the point values for veterinary surgeons and lawyers were increased multiple times.

In autumn 2023, we launched the online continuing education series "Implantology step by step" with Prof. Johannes Einwag, covering the full spectrum from the basics to a masterclass. The series began with two free pilot webinars on topics related to implantology, concluding with a billing webinar presented by Kerstin Salhoff and myself, which focused the clinical content covered throughout the series. It was a successful, well-structured programme with thematically aligned modules.



2024

In July 2024, alongside the well-established Curriculum Cologne, we launched Curriculum South, organised by Markus Tröltzsch. He developed the Curriculum South based on the Cologne "original", but with a significant number of online components. Curriculum South includes both online sessions and face-to-face courses held in Munich and Ansbach.

2025

At IDS 2025, we presented our analysis of the revised GOÄ (the SHI standard fee schedule for physicians in general) for the first time. Our exhibition booth attracted considerable interest—and not only because of our popular prize wheel. We welcomed the FDI President, as well as presidents of national and international dental chambers and associations. *EDI Journal* will feature a "Who's who" of our distinguished visitors. I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the board: Wolfgang Neumann, Stefan Liepe and Anita Wuttke, as well as Helga Karanikas and Milan Fries, for their efforts during IDS.

Expert Symposia and EuCC



Let us turn to a key area of our continuing education activities. Since well before 2021, we have been developing clinical practice guides that clearly differ from formal guidelines: they offer practical recommendations for action. These practice guides are produced in advance of each Expert Symposium by the European Consensus Conference. They are based on working papers prepared by Jörg Neugebauer or Joachim Nickenig, depending on the topic.

In 2021, the focus in Cologne was on ceramics in implant dentistry. The existing guideline was revised and updated.

In 2022, the 17th Expert Symposium centred on the Cologne ABC Risk Score for implant treatment, with its intuitive "traffic lights" system.

In 2023, short, angulated and reduced-diameter implants were once again reviewed. This was the second update of the relevant guideline.

In 2024, we addressed the digital workflow, which for the first time included aspects of artificial intelligence. This, too, was an update to an existing publication.

In March 2025, we celebrated the anniversary edition in Cologne: 20 years of the Expert Symposium, this time dedicated to the management of complications.

All guidelines are published in both German and English and are sent annually to members in Germany and abroad. My sincere thanks go to Joachim Zöller, who is responsible for the entire continuing-education programme and who originated the Expert Symposium in Cologne, which has since become an integral part of the BDIZ EDI calendar.

Consensus Conferences and guideline conferences



The BDIZ EDI not only participates in the Consensus Conferences on implantology, but also in the guideline conferences organised by DG Paro, DGZMK and DGI. This allows us to contribute the broad professional expertise of our oral implantologists. It is important for us to be represented there so that we can respond promptly to any developments that appear to be heading in the wrong direction.



Communication

To save money and resources, we regularly keep our members informed through our BDIZ EDI newsletter. Subscribers regularly receive news about current developments and, of course, about upcoming virtual and face-to-face events. Currently, 2,300 members are subscribed to the newsletter. If you are not yet receiving it, please contact our Munich office.

Europe

In 2021, the planned congress in Skopje, organised in cooperation with EDI Macedonia, was cancelled due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. It was subsequently held as an online congress.

In 2022, the 15th European Symposium was held in Karlovy Vary as part of the Four-Nation Dentists' Congress, which involves the Czech Republic, Austria, Saxony and Bavaria. BDIZ EDI has become a permanent fixture at this annual four-nation gathering of dental chambers and associations, which is hosted by the Czech Dental Chamber every May.

I took part in the 2022 event in my capacity as President of the Bavarian Dental Chamber. I now represent BDIZ EDI.

It is vital for our work to remain actively engaged in these discussions, especially with regard to the political issues, bureaucratic load and remuneration matters faced by dental practices in the four participating regions.

In 2023, we partnered with OEMUS MEDIA to hold the European Symposium near Verona.

In 2024, we met in Split. Our partner on this occasion was the Croatian Dental Association.

This year, 2025, the 18th European Symposium took place in Stockholm. I am pleased to report that the event offered an outstanding day of continuing education with high-calibre speakers. Next year, we plan to hold the symposium in Tirana, Albania. Dr Erion Çerekja, one of our newer members on the European Committee who gave presentations both in Split and Stockholm, had extended this invitation.

The European Committee, which includes representatives from our partner organisations, meets regularly during the Expert Symposium in Cologne. Board members are also frequently invited by our partner associations to present at international events.

Publications, newsletter, internet and social media

I would also like to remind you about our website and our newsletter, which we publish to keep you up to date. Take advantage of being the first to know! Subscribe to the BDIZ EDI News newsletter via our website if you have not already done so. You will receive valuable information on current events and helpful downloadable templates, as well as lots of useful information on billing and legal issues. Make sure you use the members' area of our website. This is the only way to access recorded webinars and download important forms or analyses. We are now on almost every social media platform: Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube—we would love for you to follow us there!

Looking ahead

In September, the second Curriculum South will begin, followed by the 27th Curriculum Cologne in November. Curriculum South has developed very successfully, while Curriculum Cologne remains a classic that fills up quickly. Over the past 25 years, these events have helped us attract many new members to the association.

The 21st Expert Symposium will take place in February 2026, and I would like to extend a warm invitation to you all already now. We are also planning to introduce a new Expert Witness Curriculum next year. Markus Tröltzsch is currently working on content and scheduling. Rest assured that we will will continue to offer support in the areas of billing and legal matters. There will also be more webinars. Several topic requests have already been submitted by our members.

The same applies to those involved in our committee work and not least our auditors, Maximilian Grimm and Dieter Sänger.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued commitment.

Membership

As of yesterday, our total membership stood at 2,259, including 151 young professionals and 75 foreign members. Despite the increase in membership thanks to the webinars and the additional curriculum, there has been a slight decline, which, as always, is due to demographic factors. Clearly, we still have many first-generation members who have been in working in their practices for more than 30 or even 40 years, but some members are also gradually retiring from their practices. Nevertheless, most of them choose to remain members—which makes us very happy. This reflects clearly and favourably on the association and its work. However, we also need new members to help us overcome internal and external challenges, and to enable us to respond to new laws, regulations and ordinances. I would like to appeal to you to help us stay strong. Talk to the young people in your practice and show them what we can do. After all, this is what we have demonstrated, particularly during the past four years. In conclusion, I would like to thank you all for attending today's meeting in Augsburg. I would also like to thank the dedicated BDIZ EDI staff once again: Helga Karanikas in Munich, Kerstin Salhoff, who manages our billing hotline, and Nicole Schildberg and Mirjam Karanikas. Most of all, I would like to thank our press officer and Editor-in-Chief of *BDIZ EDI konkret* and *EDI Journal*, Anita Wuttke, for her support since 2007.

Thank you once again for your attention.



Christian Berger
President