Federal assembly with surprise result

First woman to head BZÄK

The Federal Assembly of the German Dental Association (BZÄK) took place in Berlin at the end of October/beginning of November and ended with a bang after two days: the previous Vice President, Dr Romy Ermler from Brandenburg, successfully ran against the previous President from Bavaria, Prof. Dr Christoph Benz, in the board elections and established her new team with Dr Ralf Hausweiler from North Rhine-Westphalia and Dr Doris Seiz from Hessen.



Dr Romy Ermler with Federal Health Minister Nina Warken (CDU) and Prof. Dr Christoph Benz.



The new BZÄK chair with (from left) Dr Doris Seiz, Dr Romy Ermler and Dr Ralf Hausweiler.

Federal Health Minister praises dentists

The federal assembly was opened with welcoming remarks from Federal Minister of Health Nina Warken, digitally from State Secretary for Health and Care Berlin, Ellen Haußdörfer, as well as from the President of the World Dental Federation (FDI), Prof. Dr Nikolai Sharkov, and the President of the Berlin Dental Association, Dr Karsten Heegewaldt. In her welcoming address, Nina Warken acknowledged that dentists play an indispensable role in healthcare. She thanked them for their commitment and said that there was much to be learned from dental care for future reforms. She noted that spending on dentistry had fallen or risen much more slowly than in the healthcare sector in general, while at the same time dental health had improved dramatically. The incidence of caries had fallen significantly. This positive development was thanks to the dental profession and its consistent focus on prevention. In terms of quality, prevention and cost-effectiveness, dentistry was a role model in the healthcare sector.

Regarding bureaucracy, the Federal Minister of Health said that the BMG wanted to reduce unnecessary burdens and allow more time for treatment. The BZÄK and KZBV had already submitted practical proposals, which were currently being evaluated for inclusion. Warken also spoke about digitalisation as a tool, not an end in itself. Here too, dentistry is a pioneer.

Regarding iMVZ and external capital, a regulatory proposal is to be introduced in this legislative period, which will primarily ensure the transparency of such structures.

The primary task of policymakers is also to maintain the high quality of dental care and increase the attractiveness of setting up an own practice. There are many tasks to be tackled, and dialogue is necessary to achieve this.

Elections for the BZÄK executive board

Elections for the BZÄK executive board were held as scheduled: the delegates elected Dr Romy Ermler as president of the German Dental Association. Dr Ralf Hausweiler, North Rhine-Westphalia, and Dr Doris Seiz, Hessen, complete the executive board as vice presidents. This means that Prof. Dr Christoph Benz was not re-elected after two terms as president of the BZÄK, despite support from Bavaria. The previous vice president, Konstantin von Laffert from Hamburg, also lost the vote by a clear margin.

The newly elected executive board stated: "We would like to thank the delegates of the federal assembly for the trust they have placed in us. We will take up our work as executive board with great enthusiasm and vigour.

Our goal is to provide our colleagues in dental practices with the best possible support and reinforcement—whether through further development of the German Dental Fee Schedule (GOZ), reduction of bureaucracy, securing skilled workers or continuing the success of preventive dentistry.

We would also like to thank the previous president, Prof. Dr Christoph Benz, and the previous vice president, Konstantin von Laffert, for their many years of service to the BZÄK and their important decisions," said the new executive board of the BZÄK after the election.

The BZÄK federal assembly unanimously passed the resolution "The future of local, low-threshold dental care in Germany". The delegates also passed resolutions on the following topics, among others: prevention as the key to a future-proof healthcare system, GOZ, recognition from third countries, no introduction of partial access to the profession, regulation of investor-operated medical care centres, bachelor's degree in dentistry, reduction of bureaucracy, electronic patient records (ePA) and telematics infrastructure (TI), active pensions for the self-employed, reliable and flexible childcare.

Source: klartext from BZÄK 11/2025



Handover: Dr Romy Ermler is the new BZÄK president. Congratulations from Prof. Dr Christoph Benz.