

Strategy against stagnation



Dear colleagues,

Europe enters 2026 with a sense of unease that hasn't been felt in decades. The continent is not collapsing, nor is it powerless—but it is undeniably strained. The political threats facing Europe today are not isolated storms; they are overlapping weather systems that test the resilience of institutions, alliances, and societies.

The war in Ukraine remains the single most destabilising force in Europe. It has reshaped defense budgets, energy markets, and diplomatic priorities. The conflict continues to drain resources and attention. It forces European governments to balance solidarity with Ukraine against domestic pressures such as inflation and energy costs. And it exposes Europe's dependence on external security guarantees and its vulnerability to hybrid threats, from cyberattacks to disinformation.

The European Union is still one of the world's most successful political projects, but 2025 tested its cohesion: disagreements over migration policy persist; economic disparities between Member States fuel resentment and debates over sovereignty versus integration intensify. These tensions complicate collective action at a time when unity is essential. Energy is no longer just an economic issue—it is a geopolitical one. Europe's strategic environment is shaped by forces far beyond its borders. The intensifying rivalry between the United States and China forces European governments to navigate a delicate balance between security partnerships and economic interests. European institutions, companies, and citizens face a growing wave of cyberattacks and influence operations.

Despite these challenges, Europe is not defined by crisis alone. It remains a region with strong institutions, deep democratic traditions, and significant economic power. But 2026 demands clarity and courage. Europe stands at a crossroads—not of decline, but of decision.

Making professional policy decisions for the positive development of oral implantology within Europe and beyond is a cornerstone of the work of the European Association of Dental Implantology (BDIZ EDI), which has had a European focus since 2002.

Our continuing education events are high-quality and sustainable. The Expert Symposium will take place for the 21st time in February. With the European Consensus Conference (EuCC), we have been developing a practical guide for over 20 years that updates scientific findings on a current topic. In 2026, we will offer two curricula in implantology in Cologne and in Ansbach/Munich. For the first time, there will be an expert witness curriculum comprising seven modules.

In 2025, we had a small generational change in the board. Some members left, others joined. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Renate Tischer, Jörg Neugebauer, Detlef Hildebrand, Nathalie Khasin, and Freimut Vizethum for their friendly, intensive, and constructive cooperation. We have big plans with the "newcomers" to the board. I am delighted that Stefanie Tiede, Kristin-Theres Tischer, and Hans Müller will be working together on BDIZ EDI projects in the future.

I look forward to working in 2026 and to mastering the challenges facing the BDIZ EDI together with the executive board and in your interests.

Yours faithfully,
Christian Berger
President of BDIZ EDI