

Marco Landi on the annual report of CED

Former president's perspective



The 2021 annual report not only concludes the year 2021, but also six years of Marco Landi's CED presidency. A few historical events marked these years: terrorist attacks in Brussels, Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, European Parliament elections and a new era in health, with the adoption of the first steps towards a European Health Union.

During this time, CED delivered 6 annual reports, 344 mailings, 22 surveys on COVID-19 and 40 approved policy documents, all important for CED lobbying on a national and European level. They reflect the breadth of our work and include dental tourism, corporate dentistry, advertising in dentistry; undergraduate education of dentists and continuing professional development (CPD); patient safety, vaccination and prevention; implementation of the Medical Devices Regulation and use of dental amalgam; eHealth including artificial intelligence in dentistry, access to patient records and online evaluations of dentists and others.

In his report, Landi mentioned two important messages for the dental profession. Firstly, the dental profession was probably at the highest level among all health professionals in tackling the pandemic, being able to deliver oral care at the same high-quality level of pre-COVID times. "The lowest infection rate among dentists is proving that we weren't caught by surprise and unprepared", he said.

Secondly, not only the CED realized that international collaboration and activity is important. The common European effort

in the vaccination campaign, even if not equally successful everywhere, and above all the exchange of information on the pandemic evolution in different countries and on sharing protocols between us, has been of utmost importance. Marco Landi: "It proves that we must stay together and support each other: this is not an individual fight."

CED's growing influence

Throughout the last six years CED engaged with various stakeholders. Apart from the regular contact with the European Commission and the European Parliament, the CED was invited in 2021 to become an official stakeholder of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). CED was granted eligibility status and is now officially recognised as representative of the dental profession in the European Union. This is the first time that the European dentists' needs and concerns are represented via direct and formal contact with the EMA and it is a clear sign of the CED's growing influence in the contact with EU stakeholders. Moreover, CED established a close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC), working together on the topic of antimicrobial resistance and more recently on infection control protocols in dental practices.

The CED's relationship with dental organisations was maintained on a regular basis, with the European Dental Students Association (EDSA), the European Regional Organisation of the Fédération Dentaire Internationale (FDI ERO), the Association for Dental Education in Europe (ADEE) and the Federation of European Dental Competent Authorities and Regulators (FEDCAR). "We have been working closely with other healthcare organisations representing doctors (CPME), pharmacists (PGEU), veterinarians (FVE), on interprofessional education and the "One Health" concept and other common topics, such as vaccination", Landi emphasized.

As per Landi there are a strong board, chairs and liaisons, valuable members of the working groups and task forces and an efficient office in Brussels behind the CED activity.

"As the former CED president I look back at the last years with pride for our achievements, but I also look forward to new horizons awaiting our profession. I am confident that the challenges the CED will encounter will be overcome successfully. I wish good luck to the new president and board and all the best to my colleagues and friends", Landi concluded.

Source: CED President's report on 2021