

Western sanctions on Russia

Frozen supply chain for dental materials

The Russian dental industry is almost entirely dependent on European and U.S. imports of equipment and materials, and now, facing a virtually frozen supply chain, dentists are scrambling to weigh the alternatives of potentially inferior treatments for patients – and having to raise prices. “Getting one’s teeth treated has always been a luxury, and now even more so,” says Inna, the owner of a dental clinic in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk. “No matter how much you care for your patients, it’s impossible to keep the same prices.” Inna says that every piece of dental equipment and material in her clinic is imported “without exception,” listing fillings, implants, prosthetics, crowns, and cement, among other essential items. Where previously these would have been ordered from European suppliers, many in Germany and Italy, now the supply chain has all but dried up. Any chance to get their gloved hands on the supplies that they have relied upon for so long now requires dentists to pay exorbitant prices, but in many instances simply isn’t possible. Some dentists were able to stockpile supplies at the beginning of March before many Western sanctions came in. Inna’s clinic bought materials for the year ahead. The costliest service that dental clinics in Russia provide is arguably prosthetics, in particular implants. The field of implantology is fully dependent on imports and is now on the brink of going under.

Source: *Radio Free Europe*

High energy prizes

Can Europe cope with this?

Energy prices in Europe remain at a record high due to sanctions on Russian oil and reduced gas supplies. Electricity prices hovered around 218 euros per kilowatt hour on the exchanges this June, compared to 74 euros one year ago. And inflation also remains high in the Eurozone at 8.6 per cent. Europe’s press worries about what the situation will be in the autumn and winter.

Source: *Eurotopics*

WHO expectation

High levels of COVID-19 in Europe

The World Health Organization said Thursday it expected “high levels” of COVID-19 in Europe this summer and called on countries to monitor the spread as cases tripled in the past month. “As countries across the European region have lifted the social measures that were previously in place, the virus will transmit at high levels over the summer”, WHO Europe regional director Hans Kluge told AFP. “This virus won’t go away just because countries stop looking for it. It’s still spreading, it’s still changing, and it’s still taking lives.” With the milder but more contagious Omicron subvariant BA.5 spreading across the continent, the 53 countries in the WHO European region are currently registering just under 500,000 cases daily, according to the organisation’s data. That is up from around 150,000 cases daily at the end of May. Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal were the countries with the highest incidence rates, with almost all countries in the region seeing a rise in cases. After registering around 4,000 to 5,000 deaths per day throughout most of the winter, Europe is currently seeing around 500 deaths per day, about the same level as during the summer of 2020. “We hope that the strong vaccine programmes most member states have implemented together with prior infection will mean that we avoid the more severe consequences that we saw earlier in the pandemic”, Kluge said. The WHO urged people experiencing respiratory symptoms to isolate, to stay up to date with their vaccinations and wear masks in crowded places.

Source: *WHO*

Oral health care in Europe

Financing, access and provision

Oral diseases are increasingly recognized as one of the most prevalent conditions in Europe, affecting nearly half of the European population. Despite their high prevalence, statutory coverage of dental care is limited in many European countries as evidenced by restricted service packages and high private funding compared to other health services. This Health Systems in Transition (HiT) review investigates a broad range of topics of oral health care across Europe, ranging from oral health and inequalities, coverage gaps, financial protection and unmet needs, preventive community care, workforce, corporate dentistry and cross-border care. The review identifies common trends and challenges in financing, access, coverage and provision of oral health care in 31 European countries and finds that:

- Oral diseases remain an important burden of disease despite decreasing prevalence in all age groups and stronger focus on preventive care.
- Data is lacking on virtually all areas of oral health care, particularly on the underlying causes and the prevalence of oral disease, as well as the effectiveness of community preventive activities and oral health services. This situation impedes informed policy making.
- Private expenditure plays an important role in many countries for covering dental care services. In particular for adults, public coverage is more limited on average than for children and other vulnerable groups.
- Dental care is the most frequent type of care for which people report unmet needs due to financial reasons particularly affecting vulnerable and low-income populations.
- There are large differences in dentists' ratios across European countries, but most countries have seen an increase of dentists which is associated with the growth of the private sector and increased cross-border dental tourism.

Sources: *European Observatory on health systems and policies: Health Systems in Transition, Vol. 24 No. 2*

Denmarks mink scandal

Cull lacking legal basis

A clear verdict has been reached by the parliamentary commission: the COVID-19 mass mink cull in Denmark lacked a legal basis. Senior officials and members of government now stand accused of serious omissions, and one of the parties that support Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's social democratic minority government is now calling for new elections this autumn at the latest. For the paper *Jyllands-Posten* the responsibility clearly lies with Social Democratic Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen: "It is absolutely outrageous that so many civil servants in the most trusted positions in the country are risking disciplinary proceedings. It underlines the seriousness of the mink scandal. No stone must be left unturned. But when it comes to the relationship between the ministers and the civil service, it is not a very bold thesis that the problem Mette Frederiksen claims to want to solve will solve itself once she is gone."

Source: *Eurotopics*

Europe Dental Implants Market

To Surpass USD 2.5 Billion by 2028

Geographically, the Europe dental implants market is segmented into Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, and the rest of Europe. The United Kingdom accounts for the largest market share in the Europe dental implants market owing to the presence of a strong dental healthcare system along with favorable reimbursement policies. Furthermore, rising demand for dental surgeries with increasing prevalence of various oral diseases is also propelling the demand for dental implants in the United Kingdom. However, France and Germany also account for a substantial market share.

Source: *BlueWeave Consulting*

EU Council presidency

France handed over to Czech Republic

France handed over the rotating EU Council Presidency to the Czech Republic. Under France's leadership, the focus was on issues such as the energy transition, the regulation of digital services and border protection, and Paris also called for a united stance on Russia's war against Ukraine. For Europe's press the results are mixed. The French president did not shine on every front during the six-month presidency, *Le Monde* comments: "The fact that the balance sheet is positive in many areas should not prevent us from questioning the limits of Emmanuel Macron's leadership role in a Europe where the balance of power is shifting. The desire of France's head of state 'not to humiliate' Russia and his efforts to maintain an open line to the Kremlin have weakened his authority in an area of the continent – Poland and the Baltic states – that advocates continuing the war until Russia is defeated, whereas France, Germany and Italy favour a more moderate course."

Source: *Le Monde*