COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN DENTISTS (formerly EU Dental Liaison Committee)

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**CED PRESS RELEASE OF 26 NOVEMBER 2013**

**EUROPEAN DENTISTS RE-ELECT BOARD OF DIRECTORS, UPDATE**

**POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM AND WELCOME THE ADOPTION OF**

**REVISED PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE**

Representatives of CED member and observer organisations met in Brussels, Belgium on 22

November 2013 for a regular six-monthly General Meeting, under the chairmanship of CED President

Dr. Wolfgang Doneus.

The Council of European Dentists (CED) is a European not-for-profit association which represents

over 340,000 practising dentists through 32 national dental associations and chambers from 30

European countries. Its key objectives are to promote high standards of oral healthcare and effective

patient-safety centred professional practice across Europe, including through regular contacts with

other European organisations and EU institutions.

**CED BOARD ELECTIONS**

Dr. Susie Sanderson (United Kingdom) was re-elected to the position of CED Treasurer for another

three-year term. Dr. Peter Engel (Germany), Dr. Pirkko Grönroos (Finland) and Dr. Roland L’Herron

(France) were re-elected as Directors.

They join the current CED President Dr. Wolfgang Doneus (Austria), Vice-President and Director Dr.

Marco Landi (Italy) and Directors Dr. Nikolai Sharkov (Bulgaria) and Dr. Alexander Tolmeijer (The

Netherlands).

CED Board of Directors is composed of eight members who must be dental practitioners and share

the powers of administration of the organisation, including communication and representation of the

CED towards third parties, in particular the European Institutions, as well as implementation of CED

policy and financial management.

**MEMBERSHIP OF CROATIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION IN THE CED**

Following Croatia’s accession to the European Union on 1 July 2013, the Croatian Dental Chamber

requested to become a full member in the CED. The CED members unanimously approved the

request.

**CED UPDATED POLICY ON DENTAL AMALGAM**

In light of the Minamata Convention on mercury signed on 10 October 2013, the CED Members

adopted a position on the Convention in which they reaffirm their continued engagement in

encouraging the reduction of the environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam and

acknowledge with appreciation the progress achieved in Europe in this area, and now worldwide.

The CED believes that the signing of a globally-binding treaty on the use of mercury is a sensible

outcome that recognises the practicalities of improving oral health. For many years, the CED has

stressed the importance of avoiding a complete phase-out of the use of mercury in dentistry,

particularly in a short timeframe.

The CED also welcomes the flexible approach adopted to take into account countries domestic

circumstances. We believe that the treaty reaches a good balance between the use of amalgam and

non-mercury based materials.

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The CED further welcomes the measures which encourage research and development of non-mercury

based materials. The CED has noted that the scientific community is not yet fully able to demonstrate

the relative emerging risks of the use of alternative materials and that the toxicology of these materials

is a work in progress. The CED strongly supports research based evidence and research based

decisions.

Following the signature of the Minamata Convention, the CED Members also updated resolutions on

dental amalgam and on responsible practice accordingly stressing that costs for alternative filling

materials will likely be higher than for dental amalgam.

Background information: The CED adopted on 19 November 2010 a resolution on dental amalgam,

stressing that amalgam is a safe and highly effective restorative material. The worldwide consensus of

the dental profession is that amalgam should remain part of the dentist’s armoury as it continues to be

the most appropriate filling material for many dental restorations due to its ease of use, durability and

cost-effectiveness.

On 18 November 2011, the CED adopted a resolution on responsible practice aimed at minimizing the

environmental impact of the use of dental amalgam. The resolution also recommended more research

to be carried out on alternative materials used in dentistry.

CED Position on the Minamata Convention concerning dental amalgam

CED Resolution on environmental management of dental materials: responsible practice – 2013 update

CED Resolution on dental amalgam – 2013 update

**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS DIRECTIVE**

CED Members welcomed the final adoption of the revised Professional Qualifications Directive by the

EU Council on 15 November 2013. The main features concerning the dental profession include basic

dental training comprising at least five years of study, which may in addition be expressed with the

equivalent ECTS credits and consisting of at least 5 000 hours of full-time theoretical and practical

training, possibility for Member States to refuse partial access to the profession on the grounds of

public health concerns, obligation for Member States’ competent authorities to alert, through a specific

alert mechanism, the authorities of other Member States about professionals who are no longer

entitled to practice as a result of a disciplinary action or criminal conviction, and possibility for Member

States’ competent authorities to conduct language controls in order to verify that professionals are in

possession of necessary language skills.

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