

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF DENTURISTS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Maidstone, England
September 27, 2006

MINUTES

Present:
IFD Paul Levasseur, President (Chair)
Finland J-P Marjoranta
Malta John Salamone-Reynaud
The Netherlands Eric Engelbrecht
United Kingdom Chris Allen

Also Present:
Jos deKlijn, Australia
Michael Vout, Canada
Urban Christen-Mendez, Switzerland
Peter Verton, United Kingdom
Gerry Hansen, Chief Executive

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/RECOMMENDATIONS
Call to order	Paul Levasseur called the meeting to order at 9:30 am	
Voting Delegates	Finland – J-P Marjoranta Malta – John Salamone-Reynaud The Netherlands – Eric Engelbrecht United Kingdom – Chris Allen	
Regrets	John Ioannou, Cyprus; Colum Sower, Ireland; Mario Wojcicki, European Committee; Stefan Masik, Slovakia; Andrej Dulian, Poland; Stephane Cerboni, France; Attila Szep, Hungary	
Observers	Paul welcomed Jos deKlijn, Michael Vout, Urban Christen-Mendez, and	

	Peter Verton.	
	Motion Eric Engelbrecht (The Netherlands); second Chris Allen (UK) That observers be permitted to attend the meeting.	CARRIED
Approval of Agenda	Add: 11.2 Chair, European Committee	
	Motion Chris Allen (UK); second J-P Marjoranta (Finland) That the agenda be adopted as amended.	CARRIED
Minutes of Previous Meeting	Motion Chris Allen (UK); second Eric Engelbrecht (The Netherlands) That the minutes of October 4, 2005 be adopted as circulated.	CARRIED
Eastern and Central European Committee	Mario Wojcicki's report circulated.	
	France – Stephane Cerboni reported that a school was opened in France. He advised that the Dental Authorities are against such a school and the Minister of Justice threatened to take action to close the school. He has appealed to the IFD for assistance	
	Hungary – Attila Szep is interested in setting a time for examinations in Hungary. The IFD requested written permission from the Health Authorities to conduct such an exam. No written confirmations have been received.	
	Poland – Andrzej Dulian has said that Dentistry is aware of Denturist activities in Europe and they have started strong lobbying at the Minister of Health against Denturism. Dental Technicians do not have a strong association so there is a lack of credible representation in dealing with government. This situation dates from the communist era when dentists and dental technicians worked for the state but could also work privately for themselves. It was a unique situation in all communist countries. During the communist era they could not organize an association. After the collapse of communist system, dental technicians worked freely, establishing private dental laboratories. There is a fear of retaliation should a strong Denturist association be formed. Their strategy is to first establish a strong Dental technicians Association (as in Slovakia) and then branch as a strong Denturist Association.	
	Slovakia – Having the IFD AGM and meetings in Bratislava in 2005 was a tremendous success in showing the Government that there is a strong	

	<p>institution such as the IFD. The Minister of Health invited Mario Wojcicki and Stanislav Skoda to a formal meeting where they spent one and a half hours discussing Denturism. The Minister realized the benefits of the Denturist profession for the public. Despite the huge opposition of dentists, he introduced the Denturists Bill to the legislature. With only 24 hours left to pass the bill, the government collapsed and an early election was called. Now the Denturist political supporters are in the opposition. Slovakia believes that it has a strong chance to be legalized by the new government after so much 'popularity' was created about Denturism at all level of institutions in Slovakia.</p>	
New members	<p>Alberta Carvalho has communicated with Gerry Hansen several times. He has indicated that Portugal is interested in membership in IFD. They are trying to establish a school and need support from the profession.</p>	
	<p>Gerry has communicated with Roberto Oliveria of Spain. There are schools of dental technology but Denturism is not legal.</p>	
	<p>Chris reported that the Republic of Ireland will soon have the same legislation as the UK. IFD's contact in Ireland is Colum Sower.</p>	
	<p>There are growing markets in Turkey, Romania, and Bulgaria</p>	
	<p>Gerry has written to a contact in Estonia. J-P reported that dental technicians do not work with patients but interest in Denturism is growing.</p>	
	<p>Urban Christen-Mendez reported on the current situation in Switzerland.</p> <p>In Switzerland, Denturists have been officially entitled to practice their profession since a referendum made in 1961. Permission was first granted for the canton of Zurich, then Schwyz, Nidwalden and then Appenzell-Innerrhoden.</p> <p>Since 1961, there have been only 6 training classes and correspondingly few participants completed the training. That means that there has been just one training class every 7.5 years.</p> <p>The training includes approximately 400 lessons of theory and practice; each participant needs to have a diploma in dental techniques (4 years of professional training) and at least 8 years of professional experience as a</p>	<p>Table to IFD meeting.</p>

	<p>dental technician. In order to participate in the final exam, the applicant must have been a resident of the canton of Zurich for five years and/or operated a laboratory in the canton for three years.</p> <p>In Switzerland the training (apprenticeship) to become a Denturist can only be completed in the canton of Zurich. In the EU only the Netherlands and Finland offer comparable training which is acknowledged by the Zurich authorities. The society is in discussion with other cantons to establish a new course.</p> <p>Presently, approximately 250 Denturists in various cantons but fewer are actively working. There is enough potential and numerous dentists do not like to work in the sector of full and partial prosthetics. This is also due to a lack of experience. Universities offer only superficial training in the field of full prosthetics. Some dental technicians work illegally; but they would only be willing to accept training to become a Denturist if such training was available. The legal situation foresees the acceptance of foreign professional training courses (in the canton of Zurich only diplomas within the European Union) after examination by the authorities concerned.</p> <p>Acknowledgement and approval for all of Switzerland is being pursued at the moment. This would entail a higher frequency of training classes. The next professional training to become a Denturist will be offered in approximately 2-3 years.</p> <p>Urban expressed Switzerland's interest in joining the IFD.</p>	
	<p>Motion Eric Engelbrecht (The Netherlands); second Chris Allen (UK) That IFD create a template on how local Denturists can start an organization in their country; and that the template is posted to the website.</p>	CARRIED
Professional Qualifications	<p>Chris reported that the Leonardo daVinci project is meeting in Stockholm in 2007. Each country needs to submit its comments by the end of October 2006. IFD needs to map the occupational standards for Denturism. FEPPD</p>	Table to IFD meeting.

	would fund this by having IFD on the FEPPD Council. FEPPD has given IFD a seat on the Council with a view to looking at Denturist occupational standards. Official IFD representatives need to be appointed.	
	Discussion on the positive and negative aspects of occupational standards. IFD needs to make a formal proposal to the FEPPD. Perhaps IFD could take the Dental Technology occupational standards and suggest at which point Denturism should enter without being ‘tacked on’ at the end.	
Medical Devices Directive	<p>John Salmone-Reynaud provided the following observations on the Medical Devices Directive. A few months ago, at a meeting of the UEAPME, the MDTA brought forward the following recommendations on the report:</p> <p>a) “A scientific research by Prof. Rurhard in Germany, showed that badly designed dentures caused cancer.” This is an outdated quotation without any scientific proof used in the past to delay the recognition of Denturism. It was likely stated in a context to emphasise the importance of having qualified dental technicians, manufacturing CMDD.</p> <p>b) With reference to some definitions of the MDD 93/42 EEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i- Instead of “Craftsman” Professional Health Carer or Dental Care Professional would have been more appropriate to use in such a context. ii- Regarding that section of the practitioners’ prescription for CMDD, the dentist is often mentioned. What would be so unethical when quoting instead of, “or any other suitably qualified practitioner”, to read, ‘or Clinical dental technician/Denturists’? iii- There is too much attention directed to the ‘Notifying Bodies inspections’. These inspections should be focused on the eligibility of the manufacturer and towards the submission of the certificate of compliance by both the clinician and manufacturer. Laboratories have to abide by quite a few regulations- to create a ‘regimental environment’ would be discouraging. <p>The MDTA has supported most of the context of the report but felt these few minor suggestions would be more favourable to all in our industry without lowering standards towards patient care and manufacturing devices (CMDD). A major priority, however, is the continuing cooperation between the IFD and the FEPPD, which will help us gain a voice in, the special groups and committees of the EU when dealing with regulations related to the</p>	Tabled to IFD meeting.

	dental/medical care professionals. An official IFD representative to the MDD should be appointed.	
New Business		
1. Hungary – Clinical exams	Paul advised that IFD has requested a list from Hungary of candidates, confirmation of education, and assurances that IFD representatives will be secure while administering the exams. Paul said that IFD needs to help these countries but has to protect examiners and patients. Is there a neutral location. Eric said that it may be possible in Holland under the supervision of a qualified Denturist at the school.	Eric to discuss with the Director of the school and determine fees for exams. Paul to check situation in St. Kitts & Nevis.
2. Chair, European Committee	Mario Wojcicky has resigned saying that the Chair should be a resident of Europe. Committee appointed Eric Engelbrecht Chair of the European Committee.	
3. Switzerland	VitaZahn is interested in doing courses or sponsoring a source of study with a recognizable qualification. This may also be useful to the Hungarians. Paul and Chris to discuss this with Vita and forward information to the Education Committee.	
4. Peter Verton	Mr. Verton is originally from Holland and is seeking to be registered in the UK. The General Dental Council requires a certified translation of Mr Verton's diploma, certified copy of diplomas, character references, and health references. Both the Denmark and Netherlands diplomas are recognized in the UK. Once all qualifications are satisfied, Mr. Verton may become the first registered Denturist I the UK.	
5. School equivalency	Recommended that George Brown College approach Finland for equivalency.	Chris and J-P to collaborate on this letter.
6. Harmonization	Discussion that if legislation has occurred, there should be harmonization without having an EU Directive	Tabled to IFD meeting.
Adjournment	There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.	

