

Minutes of the 6. EFOSA Meeting, 31 May 1979, Paris

The national associations are represented by the following delegates:

1. France: Bolender
2. Britain: Bailey
3. Ireland: Flood
4. Belgium: Gysel
5. Denmark: Caspersen
6. Germany: Bertzbach
7. Italy: Falconi
8. Netherlands: Bijlstra

Mr. Bolender opens the meeting and asks Mr. Flood to report on the ERO Conference in Dublin. Mr. Bolender provided the members with the lectures on principles which were held in Dublin (Ireland: Prof. Dockrell, Germany: Prof. Schmuth). Professor Dockrell's presentation is very revealing. His obvious aim is to replace the dental specialist for orthodontics with a paediatric dentist. In the short term, however, the FDI is unlikely to propose any changes.

According to Mr. Bolender, official recognition of the specialty of orthodontics may be expected for the year 1980. At present, large numbers of orthodontic specialty practices are being opened up in France, in the hope that transitional arrangements will provide for official recognition on the basis of established right. Any such transitional provisions will in all likelihood be limited to 1980 at the latest. They will probably differentiate between specialists who have practiced as orthodontists for more than 5 years and those who have practised for less than 5 years. As soon as these transitional arrangements have expired, an official university diploma following an exclusively clinical vocational training will become the only basis for recognition.

There is some discussion on how the EFOSA can influence decisions by the EEC. Such influence appears feasible via the "Comité de Liaison" and via the "Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners" which is listed in the Official Journal of the European Communities. Mr. Michelsen from Denmark, who is a close personal acquaintance of Mr. Caspersen's, was once president of the Comité de Liaison. The Comité de Liaison is obviously not clear on the role of the EFOSA. Therefore, Mr. Caspersen requests information on the precise number of orthodontists represented by the national associations in relation to the total number of dental specialists practicing in the respective countries. A survey brought the following results:

Germany

- Total: 850 (estimate)

- Members of the professional association: 707

France

- Total: 500
- Members of the professional association: 90 % (estimate)

Britain

- Total: 300-350

Italy

- Total: 12
- Members of the professional association: 100 %

Ireland

- Total: 12
- Members of the professional association: 100 %

Holland

- Total: 130
- Members of the professional association: 98 %

Denmark

- Total: 97 (including 60 employed by the public health service)

Belgium

- Total: 30
- Members of the professional association: 60 %

Denmark voices definite concerns that, as a consequence of the European right of establishment, dental specialists from abroad will be allowed to settle in Denmark, thus acquiring the Danish official designation on the basis of substandard foreign diplomas. Holland also expresses its opposition to the recognition of inferior training programs. The delegates are unable to discern any unequivocal information on the right to specialists' titles from the Journal of the European Communities.

Professor Lee, the current President of the Comité de Liaison, is Mr. Flood's teacher. Therefore, Mr. Flood will establish contact with the Comité de Liaison on behalf of the EFOSA. Both Mr. Caspersen and Mr. Flood will probably be in a position to inform the EFOSA about any results of the Comité's deliberations. As the EFOSA is apparently

not in a position to directly influence either the Comité de Liaison or the Advisory Committee, we have to renew our proposal to first articulate the EFOSA's orthodontic concerns via the delegates of the individual countries within the existing organs and institutions. Obviously, the relationship of the dental specialists to their dentists' associations is somewhat difficult in other countries, too.

Mr. Caspersen considers the Guidelines elaborated by the EFOSA to be a first important step by the EFOSA. Caspersen is obviously referring to the fact that these guidelines recommend professional training to be confined to clinics alone. It is proposed that the Guidelines be made available to the national dentists' representatives.

The registration of the EFOSA in Brussels continues to be difficult. Having obtained legal advice, we learned that it is not possible to have the EFOSA registered according to international law. Since registration according to Belgian law is a long-drawn-out procedure, even if all requirements are met, it is agreed to take the registration to Strasbourg. According to Mr. Bolender, it should be possible to have the EFOSA registered at short notice in Strasbourg.

According to a decision taken in 1978, a new edition of the directory is to be published every two years, so that the next edition is due in 1980. It has to be clarified whether the telephone number can be added to the address. Bolender requests the member countries to hand in their lists by September / October 1979. The printing house will be asked to send out the directory directly this time.

Signed: Bertzbach

Bremen, 14 June 1979