

Regulators of Oral Healthcare Professionals – A Manifesto for the EU Elections

FEDCAR represents 21 European dental regulators and competent authorities. We liaise with the EU legislature and institutions on issues concerning the mobility and standards of dental healthcare professionals.

Responsibility for free movement

Healthcare professionals are among the most mobile professions in the internal market. EU Law seeks to ensure that the barriers to mobility are minimised when countries are recognising professional qualifications obtained in other member states, especially for healthcare professionals. We call on the EU institutions to ensure that national Competent Authorities are better equipped to fulfil their mandates.



Higher quality of training

It is important for the proper functioning of the Single Market that competent authorities can trust all mutually recognised qualifications. Dental competent authorities need to have confidence in the quality of education for all dentists practicing in their countries in order to protect patients. The minimum training standard set out in the Professional Qualifications Directive cannot alone ensure that all new graduates will receive a sufficient level of theoretical and clinical training to practice safely after graduation. We consequently call on the EU to amend the law to reflect these concerns.



Proportionality Test

EU Directive 2018/958 of 28 June 2018 requires all member states to carry out a proportionality test before introducing any new professional regulation. We call on the EU to respect the unique risks in healthcare and to ensure that this Directive is implemented in a manner that maximises public safety.



Objective of universal health coverage

FEDCAR is aware that access to healthcare and oral healthcare varies within the EU. We note the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the EU's commitments in this regard. We support in the objective that all European citizens should have access to healthcare, and in particular oral healthcare.



Dentistry is the 5th most mobile profession in Europe.



About 16.000 alerts for a professional sanction applied to a health practitioner have been sent in the EU in 2017. Just over 1,000 referred to dental professionals.



About 8.000 types of professions are regulated in the EU. Dentistry is one of the 7 professions benefitting from an automatic recognition of qualifications in the European Union.



Across the EU, only 3.6% of citizens cite cost as a barrier to obtaining a dental examination. However, this increases dramatically for the population with the lowest income and it exceeds 25% in some countries.