



# The Council of European Chief Dental Officers

## PRESS RELEASE

The Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) spring-meeting took place in Madrid from 6 to 8 May at the Consejo General de Colegios de Dentistas de Espana. The delegates were welcomed by Dr. Juan Antonio Lopez Calvo, Vice-President of the Consejo General Colegios de Dentistas de Espana.

The themes of the meeting were Epidemiology and the Dental Profession in Spain and Forensic Odontology and Criminal investigation in Spain.

The delegates were made aware of the new system for collecting epidemiological data in Spain. They also learned of the gross increase in the number of dentists and dental schools in Spain. The Spanish presenters were concerned that educating so many dentists in Spain, with the actual system of delivering oral health care with an uneven utilization and access of public services, tips the balance between demand and supply. This is likely to lead to an ineffective use of resources, unemployment of dentists and might adversely affect dental health of patients. This may have implications not just for Spain but for the European Union. It is hoped that this problem will be addressed at the European level in the near future and that a monitoring system on a European level may be necessary. The Spanish delegates advise that a ceiling in the number of students entering the schools annually in Spain is necessary.

In the afternoon the importance of the dental team in wider social aspects was highlighted, these included forensic identification in mass disaster situations, criminal investigations and the detection of child abuse and violence against women. Delegates heard the latest scientific findings in this area and how legal proceedings are now advised with quantifiable evidence.

On the second day during the morning CECDO held a workshop on “The balance between confidentiality protection and detection of child abuse – the role of the dental team” followed by the Business Meeting in the afternoon.

After input statements reporting the situation/experiences of countries two groups discussed the “perception of the patient regarding confidentiality and sharing sensitive information” and the “perception of the dental team regarding confidentiality and sharing sensitive information – implications for the dental team” respectively.

The CECDO agreed on the importance of raising awareness of child abuse, neglect and violence signs. The oral health service has an important role to play in identifying these cases. It was advocated that abuse and violence diagnosis should be made mandatory in the undergraduate curriculum for all oral health care personnel. Each country should establish its own reporting system once a case has been identified.

The CECDO thanks the Consejo General de Colegios de Dentistas de Espana for hosting a most successful meeting. The next meeting will take place in Berlin, from 14 to 16 October 2010.