Our Organization

The EFOSA was founded in 1977, as an umbrella organization for European national associations of orthodontic specialists.

The aim of the EFOSA is to unite associations or groups of orthodontic specialists or practitioners, who have a comparable education and working conditions as orthodontic specialists with a view to:

1. obtaining official recognition of orthodontic specialists in all countries in Europe
2. providing and promoting orthodontic treatment by orthodontic specialists of the highest quality in all countries of Europe according to the concept of quality improvement
3. improving the contents and quality of education for orthodontic specialists by means of formulating proposals geared toward defining and coordinating the teaching of orthodontics at the university and post-university level
4. standardizing European examinations at the end of specialist training programs in orthodontics, advising and supporting national associations or groups that aim to obtain recognition for the specialists of their country, in order to establish an official specialist register and form a national society of orthodontic specialists.

Orthodontics in Europe — France

In France, the scientific and the professional part of orthodontics are distinct. The French Professional Association is SFOSDF (Syndicat des Specialistes Français en Orthopédie Dento-Faciale) while the Scientific Association is FFO (Fédération Française d’Orthodontie) which is composed by 12 scientific groups. Historically the first group was the SFOSDF (Société Française d’Orthopédie Dento-Faciale).

SFOSDF was created in January 1961. It aims to provide a specialty in orthodontics in France, to protect, defend and represent our members and the orthodontic specialty facing the stakeholders, to promote the specialty in the media, to promote the best level of teaching and research in orthodontics, help specialists in professional affairs, create a library, organize meetings in orthodontics, and finally to advise and assist its members from a legal standpoint. In 2005, the SFOSDF co-organized the 6th IADC in Paris with SFODF (French Orthodontic Scientific Society). SFOSDF is composed of 24 regions. Each region has its own President and has a meeting once a year. Every November its national General Assembly takes place in Paris during the “Orthodontics Days”. The “Orthodontics Days” convention is very well known in France. It is always on TV and there are many articles about orthodontics in newspapers. Next year a promotion for the Special will take place during the “Orthodontics Days”. The Speciality was officially recognized in 1977, thanks to SSFODF and Charles Bolender the president at that time. The competent authority for specialists registration is the French National Chamber of Order. In France there were about 1900 specialists at the end of 2006. The National Specialist’s Training Program is under the authority of the National Order. The outline is: 4000 hours of general dentistry (6 years), special examination for entering the post-graduate course in Orthodontics and 4 years training for the specialty (part time). The specialist training is held in Public Universities only. Continuous education is under the control of the National Dentists’ Order and it is mandatory. Under a new law each doctor has to accomplish courses for a continuous education of 600 hours over a period of 4 years. Orthodontic care is carried out by specialists in almost 85% of the patients. A good cooperation with the General Practitioners is now established. In 2006, a new agreement for the fees took place: For regular patients, orthodontic fees are free. It is the first time this is written in the agreement. For low income patients such as CMU (universal illness state insurance) the fees are fixed: the government pays for them and the amount is slightly - but not sufficiently - raised. The proposal for a reduced number of applications for a treatment - from one application every 6 months to only one for the whole treatment - is still in progress. For many years immigration is free for orthodontists coming from European Union Countries. However, due to the language barrier, there are not many foreign orthodontists practising in France. The National Council of SFOSDF is: Dr. Jacqueline KOLF, President, Dr. Gérard MOITO, Vice President for internal affairs, Dr. Claude BOURDILLAT MIKOL, Vice President for External Affairs, Dr. Yves TRIN and Dr. Joël DENIAUD, Secretary Generals. Dr. Claude BOURDILLAT MIKOL SFOSDF Vice-President.

Inside this issue:

A Letter from the President

37th General Assembly

New EFOSA Council

Frans van der Linden

The Editor’s Message

The Treasurer’s Message

Orthodontics in France

The 37th General Assembly Meeting

The 37th General Assembly Meeting was held in Vienna at the Hofburg Gartensaal, on Tuesday, July 4th, 2006. Twenty-nine member participants from 21 countries attended the meeting. Six guests/observers from 6 countries and one observer from each of the European Orthodontic Federation (FEO) and the European Orthodontic Society (EOS) were also present.

The President, Frans van der Linden (The Netherlands) warmly welcomed the delegates and guests to the 37th EFOSA General Assembly Meeting and opened it at 9:15 a.m. The delegates will have a common round table lunch, as we had last year, in order to exchange ideas and discuss important matters for the future of EFOSA. The evening before (Tuesday night), the German Orthodontic Association (BDK) has invited all delegates and their spouses to the traditional “get together”. This will be a highlight during the meeting and another possibility to meet friends from all over Europe.

This year we will also invite representatives from all non-EU countries in Europe as Guests. The EFOSA General Assembly will replace the earlier Forum and give information to all countries in Europe regardless of member status in the EU. It is my hope and belief that all European countries will be represented at the next EFOSA meeting and strive for quality treatments and high standard in the performance of our beloved profession: Orthodontics.

Welcome to Berlin!

Lars Medin, EFOSA President

“A letter is my hope and belief that all European countries will be represented at the next EFOSA meeting”