



## **Re: Recognition and Licencing of Clinical Dental Technologists/Denturists within the EU**

Further to your message/circular via e-mail dated 24/11/09, regarding the EU 2020 consultation launch, I feel compelled to put pen to paper and forward a brief proposal which directly involves a Health Care Profession providing an excellent dental prosthetic service to the patient/public.

*The EU is looking towards new policies and services (including Health Services) which are customer orientated, innovative and can only be more beneficial to Society. The European Commission is presently encouraging the EU Parliament to prioritise, support and invest towards these innovative services. In turn all National Parliaments will contribute by delivering feedback on such issues presented on their agenda.*

One has to acknowledge the fact that the profession in question is a small entity compared to others; however, with the democratic values the EU fosters, I am confident it will promote and implement such updated, competitive, feasible and most of all a customer orientated specialised professional dental technology service.

Both my colleagues and EU peers are determined that our aims for recognition throughout the EU States can finally be achieved and, it is only a matter of time, which is so precious to mankind, which will confirm our goal. We hope with the European Commission's support, this time is minimised.

*For the past 30 years the movement of Clinical Dental Technologists/Denturists has been striving to promote, support and demonstrate the advantages that this dental technology profession can offer to the community, within the dental team. The International Federation of Denturists represents this specialised profession and incorporates a European Committee to evaluate and assess any progress in education, training and recognition of CDTs' in EU States.*

Compared to Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the EU States unfortunately fall way behind the development, regulation and Code of Practice for this profession. Of the present 27 EU States, the UK, Denmark, Holland, Finland and Republic of Ireland, provide recognition of CDTs'/Denturists. Sweden and Cantons in Switzerland likewise have recognition when associated with the European Economic Area (EEA).

There is a weak National input (or any effort), from the EU States (with no recognition of the profession), due to the overpowering monopolisation of one of the primary stakeholders of the Dental team. If one were to analyse the history of events

in each and every country where Denturists achieved a licence, one will notice the similar chain of delaying tactics encountered by our peers before reason, flexibility and the willingness for innovation of an improved community dental care set in. Professional respect and attitudes between inter-related professions, seems harder to accomplish in the European region.

The European Commission proclaims it wants to create incentives for improving:

- *Knowledge, education and training*
- *Competition and career opportunities*
- *Cross border labour and service mobility*
- *Investment for SME's*
- *Policies focused and beneficial to the patients/customers/end-users/public/community/society.*

The **CLINICAL DENTAL TECHNOLOGIST**  
encompasses all the above mentioned categories.

Now that we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with an ever expanding and unified EU, why does a justified claim for progress and most of all, 'patient cantered dental service' experience such lengthy procedures to attain its implementation? We look up to the European Commission to install, support and encourage this cause by eradicating unjustified monopolising voices that aim to subdue a promising feasible dental service to the Public.

John Salomone Reynaud SRDT  
President MDTA  
Manager Dental Technology Services.