



European Regional Organisation of  
the Fédération dentaire internationale



## **Statement on the role of dental technicians in provision of dental care**

The ERO-FDI takes note of the recent actions of national and international organizations associating dental technicians. These actions are carried on in different forms and take place on various occasions<sup>i</sup>, but they have a common goal of ensuring an increased scope of professional tasks for dental technicians trying to obtain the right of independent practice, including direct provision of care to the patients without supervision by the dentist.

The ERO-FDI, in accordance with the FDI Policy Statement on Dental Laboratory Technician adopted in 1998 and revised in 2007, firmly opposes such actions and draws attention of the authorities and the public to the fact that dentistry is a complex branch of medicine and thorough professional qualifications are necessary to provide dental care. It is the duly qualified dentist that is responsible for provision of such care. The members of the dental team have to work under the dentist's supervision following the dentist's directions and specifications. Dental custom-made devices manufactured by dental technicians form part of the thoroughly planned dental treatment that requires correct diagnosis, which the dental technician is not qualified to make. Dental technicians manufacture the custom-made devices strictly according to the dentist's prescription. The device is, then placed exclusively by the dentist. Dental technicians are not in a position to elaborate and provide care to the patients.

The ERO-FDI appeals to the health authorities in Europe to keep that in mind and to separate the tasks and responsibilities of dental care professionals accordingly. No considerations of financial or economical nature should take precedence over the quality of dental care and patient safety relying on dental and medical science and evidence and the EU Charter of Patient's Rights (2002).

**Adopted on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the ERO-FDI Plenary Session in Hong Kong**

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<sup>i</sup> e.g.:

- report of the European and International Federation of Dental Technician Laboratory Owners (FEPPD) submitted to the annual CEN TC55 meeting in Brussels on 10 July 2012;
- proceedings before the French Competition Authority initiated by the National Union of prostheses manufacturers.