



# The Council of European Chief Dental Officers

## PRESS RELEASE

### Chief Dental Officers from all over Europe met in Copenhagen

**Copenhagen, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012** - The Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) spring-meeting 2012 took place in Copenhagen from 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April at the invitation of the Danish Health and Medicines Authority. The meeting was planned in conjunction with the meetings of Chief Medical Officers and the Chief Nursing Officers. Delegates from the three organisations were welcomed by the Danish Director General of the Health and Medicines Authority. In the presence of all three groups the new publication Health System in Transitions, Health System Review Denmark 2012 by the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies was launched.

Prior to the conference, on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April, Chief Dental Officers were invited to meet in the European Regional Office of WHO at Copenhagen to discuss the policy for oral health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, integration of oral health into general health promotion and priority action areas suggested by CDOs to WHO. CECDO recognises the high importance of the work done by the Oral Health Programme and considers it essential for this to be continued. CECDO welcomed this opportunity to increase collaboration with WHO and hopes to continue this cooperation.

The first day of the CECDO-meeting was devoted to the local situation describing the public and private health care system in Denmark for the different age groups and groups with special health care needs. Possible causes for the caries decline in Denmark were discussed, highlighting the importance of the non operative caries care. A full session was devoted to the workforce-topic as introduction to the CECDO-workshop on “team dentistry” at the second day.

CECDO recognises the merits of the dental team with respect to patients safety and quality of care. All members of the dental team are working within their competencies, comply with ethical standards and are accountable for their own work. The role and tasks of the members within the team must be clearly communicated to the patient.

The conference was closed by a Speech by the Danish Minister of Health, Ms Astrid Krag, and by Ms Zsusanna Jakab, Regional Director for WHO EURO. The Minister of Health stressed the importance of Patient empowerment as a spearhead for future health policies.

The CECDO thanks the Danish Health and Medicines Authority for hosting the Meeting. The next meeting will take place in Cyprus. It will be in conjunction with the next six monthly meeting of Chief Medical and Nursing Officers and will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CECDO.

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