



# The Council of European Chief Dental Officers

*“working for better oral health”*

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Chief Dental Officers from all over Europe met with European Association of Dental Public Health (EADPH) in Malta to discuss practical and political perspectives**

**Malta, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013** - The Council of European Chief Dental Officers (CECDO) autumn-meeting 2013 took place in Malta from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November. Delegates were welcomed by the Presidents of EADPH, Professor Kenneth Eaton, and CECDO, Dr. Paula Vassallo.

The conference topic was introduced by giving an overview of the epidemiological links between oral and general health. The delegates then discussed relevant topics in special interest groups.

On the second day presentations were given on Public Health issues in Gerodontology, Dental Erosion as an indicator of Health and Dietary Habits, Orthodontics from a Public Health perspective, the Management of Mandibular Edentulism as a cost effective approach for a better quality of life, Diabetes and Periodontal Health. The morning session was closed by the presentation “the mouth – the mirror of the body” which reflected the interaction between oral and general health.

In the afternoon CDOs held a workshop, discussing how oral health and general health can be or have been integrated in their countries. They concluded that with some notable exceptions much work was necessary to improve the current situation. A first step should be to include oral health topics in the education of all healthcare professions. A further step should be to embed oral health policies into general health policies.

The Saturday morning was dedicated to how this could be achieved through practical and political approaches.

The CECDO thanks Paula Vassallo for hosting the meeting. The next meeting will take place in Israel from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2014. It will be held in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> Nazareth Conference on Dental Public Health.

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