



The Council of European Chief Dental Officers

POSITION PAPER

CECDO position paper on Specialisation in Dentistry

April 2012

Over the years dental treatment has expanded and diversified and there are nowadays more treatment options available to the patient. Consequently an increased number of postgraduate training courses have become available. This has resulted in the introduction of specialities in the dental profession.

The EU recognizes two specialisations. – Oral Surgery and Orthodontics. There is however a great diversity in what is recognised in the EEA countries, ranging from no recognition as for example in Spain to recognition of 13 specialties as in the UK.

In the medical profession, the EU Directive 2005/36/EC regulates mutual recognition of new medical specialties.

With the best interest of the patient at heart and in view of the free movement of oral Health professionals and patients, the CECDO discussed this issue extensively during its meeting in Warsaw in October 2011.

The CECDO position is that:

There is a need for specialized care in dentistry, for a variety of reasons, especially in order to improve the quality of care and patients' safety. There should be a Pan-European agreed list of competences for each specialty in order to enhance harmonization and standardization.