

Thursday, 3rd April 2025

Dear Presidents, dear EFP Delegates,

EuroPerio is fast approaching, and we'd like to inform you about a key strategic discussion scheduled during the event.

We kindly ask that you share this information with your leadership and members at your earliest convenience, so they can plan their agendas accordingly.

The details of the talk are the following:

Saturday, May 17, 10:30 – 11:00, Room : Strauss 1-2

Breaking News From the World Health Organization

What in the world is going on? How we can advocate for better oral health for all.

Dympna Kavanagh, Georgios Tsakos, WHO, Iain Chapple.

The publication of the WHO Global Resolution on Oral Health in 2021 set in motion a chain of events that has raised the profile of oral health amongst governments in Member States worldwide. Consequently, oral health has for the first time become accepted by policy makers as part of the larger family of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The call from the WHO to include oral health care as part of the universal healthcare (UHC) basket and rooting its delivery in primary care settings has been a useful lever to advocate within countries for the resources needed to ensure this goal is achieved by 2030. Subsequent WHO strategy has generated further impetus and support for action. In 2025, the first ever WHO Global Oral Health meeting, which required each country to develop a road map towards achieving the WHO goals within the action plan by 2030, heightened recognition within governments for the need to urgently invest in oral health care. This meeting resulted in the Bangkok Declaration signed up to by many countries and civil societies. However, in the meantime, financial resources for the WHO have been considerably reduced by the withdrawal of funding by the current USA administration. For example, in the WHO EURO region, 17% of their funding was dependent on the USA and there is genuine concern that the advances in global health gained in the past four years will be lost.

The global Oral Health action plan is not solely the responsibility of governments. Civil Society has an important role to play, and in fact has its own distinct assigned actions.

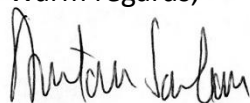
The Platform for Better Oral Health in Europe is a federation of professional organisations across Europe that work together with a single goal and voice to call for the inclusion of oral health in all EU policies, and the EFP are represented on the board of the platform.

Prior to the EU elections last year, the Platform for Better Oral Health developed a Manifesto and one of its requests was to call on EU policy makers to support the WHO action plan. Amplifying and securing a commitment to this call for implementation of the WHO action plan from EU policy makers and other civil society stakeholders in oral and general health will strengthen the voice across Europe in support of the WHO. This is critical in light of the planned UN High Level meeting on NCDs in New York in September 2025.

This unique focussed symposium is a timely opportunity to raise awareness within the periodontal community and beyond of this rapidly evolving healthcare political landscape. It will examine ways to further strengthen advocacy for global oral health in order to effect an outcome that will ultimately enable oral health to take its place on an equal footing with other major NCDs. It is now time for civil societies to step-up to support the WHO message in this time of crisis and become a powerful advocacy force by collaborating with each other towards this common goal.

We thank you in advance for your help in this matter and hope to see you soon at EP11.

Warm regards,



Anton Sculean
EP11 Chair
EFP Secretary General



Lior Shapira
EP11 Scientific Programme