



European Regional Organisation of
the Fédération dentaire internationale



ERO-FDI RESOLUTION 2008

Adopted by ERO-FDI Plenary Session, Istanbul, 2008

EXTERNAL INTERFERENCE IN DENTAL PRACTICE

In an increasing number of European countries commercial non-professional corporations, whose shareholders are non-dentists take advantage of new legislation to open, own and manage dental clinics.

Commercial interests of outside investors are a potential disadvantage for patients because they:

- influence the decisions about dental therapy
- compromise the quality of dental care
- influence negatively the social and private dental care systems in case that insurance companies run dental offices
- interfere with the basic right of the patient to freely choose his dentist
- encourage "over-treatment "

The dentists who are employed by such entities may be unduly pressured and compromised by their duties to their commercially-motivated employers, and consequently must ignore the ethical guidelines and their primary obligations to the oral health and welfare of their patients.

The European Regional Organization of the FDI expresses its strong objection to the interference of external providers in the delivery of dental care.

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Liberal dental practice provides the best basis for a patient treatment because it is not focused on commercial interests and is carried out in the dentist's own therapeutic responsibility, based on mutual trust between dentist and patient.

Therefore, any external interference, any government privileges for commercial types of occupational activity endangers this special relationship between patient and dentist and, in the long run, it would jeopardize health in general.

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