

FDI World Dental Federation
Attn:
Ms. Ivosevic.
Governance and Membership Director
Per e-mail divosevic@fdiworlddental.org

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Ons kenmerk 16082024-FDI-electronicvoting
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Betreft Comments Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT) on amendment constitution 'digital voting'

Dear Ms. Ivosevic,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide our opinion on the proposed amendment to Article 2.8.5 of the FDI Constitution.

The Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT) strongly advocates for electronic voting through the amendment of Article 2.8.5 'Voting' as proposed by the Nordic Dental Associations.

For the KNMT, enhancing governance through further democratisation and transparency of the FDI's GA decision-making processes is of great importance. If electronic voting is not feasible for some countries, participation in person should, of course, remain possible as proposed.

Approximately 33.5 percent of the CO₂ emissions from dental practices are caused by commuting and work related travel. In light of achieving the climate goals in the EU and the Netherlands (50% CO₂ reduction by 2030 and 0% by 2050), it is necessary for KNMT to set a good example, as it plays a guiding role. We also refer to the Policy Statements of the CED and the FDI in this regard.

The compelling counterarguments of the FDI are primarily financially related and somewhat dramatically portrayed, but they are not supported by figures. Perhaps an example calculation could be provided, clearly outlining the financial consequences for the 2025 budget with regard to electronic voting?

This would enable the General Assembly to weigh the interests, such as increasing the transparency of decision-making processes, further democratisation, and the leading role in achieving climate goals on the one hand, against financial consequences and impact on network opportunities on the other hand.

Finally, it might be helpful to establish a committee and assign them the task of weighing the above arguments and providing advice to the GA regarding the proposed amendment of the constitution.

Thank you for your attention,

Dr. Hans de Vries
President Royal Dutch Dental Association (KNMT)