

Recommendation 608 (1970)¹

Improvement of the dental condition of populations of Council of Europe member States (odontological questions)

Parliamentary Assembly

The Assembly,

1. Considering that in most European countries the consumption of certain food-stuffs is contributing to dental decay, from which as many as 80 to 98 % of children of school ages suffer, and concerned by the fact that the bucco-dental health of the public is not being properly attended to owing to a shortage of dentists;
2. Considering that most people are ill-informed of the effects of dental disease, of the preventive means available, and of the progress made in dental research and practice;
3. Considering that the fluoridation of drinking-water is an effective and inexpensive means in helping the reduction of the incidence of dental decay;
4. Welcoming the efforts already made by the World Health Organisation to combat dental disease,
5. Recommends that the Committee of Ministers :
 - a. instruct the European Public Health Committee to study the above-mentioned points with a view to preparing, by the end of 1972, a resolution on odontological questions, embodying amongst other things :
 1. a European dental education programme based on recent research findings, to be systematically put into effect in all schools;
 2. detailed proposals regarding the supplying, by the appropriate ministries and other authorities in member States, of information to the public on the hazards of dental disease and the effectiveness of measures for the prevention of dental decay and gum ailments;
 3. suggestions regarding steps which may be taken to obtain a ratio of dentists with academic qualifications to inhabitants enabling dental practitioners to attend properly to the dental health of the public according to the conditions prevailing in each area;
 4. detailed proposals regarding the fluoridation of drinking water in the States participating in the public health activities of the Council of Europe;
 - b. include the points referred to in sub-paragraph (a) above in the Work Programme as a matter of urgency, and make financial provision, from 1971 onwards, for the work to be done on odontological questions by the European Public Health Committee.

1. Assembly debate on 21 September 1970 (12th Sitting) (see [Doc.2810](#), report of the Committee on Social and Health Questions). Text adopted by the Assembly on 21 September 1970 (12th Sitting).

