



Strasbourg, 27/06/08

### Note for the Editors

The European Pharmacopoeia<sup>1</sup> and the EDQM (a Directorate of the Council of Europe notably in charge of the secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia) have a mission to protect and promote public and animal health, through the elaboration of quality standards of medicines for human and veterinary use.

Medicines need to be safe, efficacious and of good quality in order to produce the expected therapeutic benefit. The EDQM works closely with its international and European partners to strengthen measures in order to ensure that substandard or counterfeit medicines do not reach the marketplace.

The EDQM's networks collaborate on a daily basis with all the authorities involved in the standardisation, regulation and control of medicines for human and veterinary use. Since December 2006, the EDQM has taken over activities of the Council of Europe in the fields of blood transfusion, organ transplantation, the legal classification of medicines and the co-ordination, on a European scale, of the fight against the production, transportation and distribution of counterfeit medicines.

### THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA HAS ADOPTED THE REVISION OF HEPARIN MONOGRAPHS

In its 131st session, the European Pharmacopoeia Commission adopted during the revision of 2 heparin monographs (namely Heparin calcium (0332) & Heparin sodium (0333)) in order to strengthen the level of testing required for quality control. These revised monographs shall become effective via a rapid implementation on 15 July 2008 (date to be confirmed by all national authorities). At this date the revised monographs will be published on the EDQM website to allow users immediate access to the newly implemented texts.

Other topics of interest: A decision was taken to set up several new working parties to cover additional innovative topics for the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, notably Process Analytical Technology (PAT) and radiopharmaceuticals. The European Pharmacopoeia Commission accepted the request of Argentina for observer status. The formal process is now completed. Argentina is looking forward to participate in the work of the European Pharmacopoeia and share information and experience .

Obituary: The European Pharmacopoeia Commission observed a moment of silence in tribute to Peter Castle its Secretary since 1999.

*A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.*

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There are currently thirty-seven members<sup>1</sup> of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom and the European Union* and twenty-two observers: *The World Health Organisation (WHO); 5 member states of the Council of Europe: Albania, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine; 16 other countries in the world: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America.*