



STRASBOURG, 14/05/08

Note for the Editors: The mission of the European Pharmacopoeia and the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), a Directorate of the Council of Europe responsible for the Secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia, is to protect and promote public and animal health through the elaboration of quality standards for medicines for human and veterinary use. Medicines need to be safe, effective and of good quality in order to produce the expected therapeutic effect. The EDQM works closely with its international and European partners to ensure that sub-standard or counterfeit medicines do not reach the marketplace. Its networks collaborate on a daily basis with all authorities involved in the standardisation, regulation and control of medicines for human and veterinary use. For more information, please go to: www.edqm.eu.

EDQM SADDENED BY DEATH OF PETER CASTLE, SECRETARY TO THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (Council of Europe) with great sadness announces the death of Peter Castle, Secretary to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission and Head of the European Pharmacopoeia Department. Mr. Castle died in Strasbourg, France on Wednesday, 7 May 2008 at the age of 61 after a long battle against illness.

Mr Castle first joined the Council of Europe in 1974 (the then Technical Secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia) and was one of the founding pillars of the European Pharmacopoeia. He served as Secretary to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission from 1999 and head of the European Pharmacopoeia Department until his death.

During a career spanning more than 30 years with the Council of Europe, he was involved in many major developments and was an enormous reservoir of knowledge about the European Pharmacopoeia. He worked in all the areas covered by the European Pharmacopoeia but played a pivotal role in the biological Groups notably on vaccines and blood products, and their growth in importance and influence was very much a result of his work.

Mr Castle had a great love and passion for science in general. He was a real hands-on leader but he was always unfailingly helpful and considerate.

Mr Castle was born on 29 September 1946 in Hull. He graduated from Cambridge University, England in 1968 with a degree in biochemistry. He worked with the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on drug metabolism and determination of drugs in body fluids for three years. Afterwards, he worked in the animal health division of Smith Kline & French, UK, before joining the Council of Europe.

Dr Hendrik de Jong, President of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission expressed his great sadness to lose a scientific friend and colleague, "I have the greatest esteem for his very important contributions to international harmonisation on a European and world level. On behalf of the Presidium of the European Pharmacopoeia, I would like to present our condolences and thoughts of sympathy to the Castle family".

Dr Susanne Keitel, EDQM Director, stated, "We are all deeply saddened by the loss of Peter and will miss him greatly. He was a valued friend and mentor to many of us. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Yolande and his 2 children Jérôme and Béatrice."

Services for Mr Peter Castle will be held in the église des Dominicains, 42 rue de l'Université in Strasbourg on Saturday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m.



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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