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Note for the Editors: Further information is available on the internet site: www.edqm.eu

JOIN THE EDQM AT THE 21st REGIONAL CONGRESS OF THE ISBT IN LISBON

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM, Council of Europe) will participate in the upcoming ISBT Congress that will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 18-22 June, 2011. This event is especially significant as the EDQM will present its new edition of the 'Guide for the Preparation, Use and Quality Assurance of Blood Components' (16th Edition 2010).

The work of the Council of Europe in the field of blood transfusion started in the 1950s. The European Committee on Blood Transfusion (CD-P-TS), the Steering Committee in charge of blood transfusion activities for the EDQM, works on the ethical, legal and organisational aspects of blood transfusion with a view to ensuring quality, increasing availability, avoiding wastage and ensuring optimal use of blood supplies. The CD-P-TS, assisted by leading European experts, is responsible for producing regular updates of the Guide.

This Guide is a compendium of requirements designed to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy of blood components. It contains standards and recommendations on the collection, preparation and use of blood and its components, as well as technical procedures, transfusion practices and quality systems for blood establishments. It represents the basis for the establishment of national regulations and certain European directives.

It is intended for health professionals working in transfusion services and establishments, hospitals and regulatory authorities. The Guide is available in book format, both in English and French. There are plans to make it available electronically and in other languages.

If you wish to meet the EDQM during this Congress, please come to booth N° 725. We look forward to speaking with you. For more information, please visit: <http://www.edqm.eu/en/Fairs-Exhibitions-254.html>

For more information on the Guide and how to order, please visit the EDQM website: www.edqm.eu/store.

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Note for the Editor: The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark world-wide. The European Pharmacopoeia¹ is legally-binding in European Member States. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

¹There are currently thirty-seven members 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-three observers: The World Health Organization (WHO); 6 member states of the Council of Europe: Albania, Armenia, 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.