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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.

TOP-LEVEL MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE EDQM AND THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES TO STRENGTHEN COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF MEDICINES IN EUROPE AND INDIA

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM, Council of Europe), the Ministry of Health of India and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) held a meeting recently to discuss how to strengthen their working relationship in order to improve the quality of medicines in Europe and India.

Dr Susanne Keitel, Director of the EDQM and Dr Claude Coune, EDQM, met with the Honorable Dr Anbumani Ramadoss, Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Dr Surinder Singh, Drugs Controller General of India, and Dr G. N. Singh, the Secretary-cum- Scientific Director of the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IPC), in New Delhi and at IPC's Headquarters in Ghaziabad.

“The EDQM is pleased to reinforce its partnership with the Indian authorities and the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission and would welcome an application from India for observer status to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission” said Dr Keitel. In response, Dr Singh added “the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission looks forward to a long-term relationship with the EDQM and the European Pharmacopoeia, one in which we can exchange our scientific expertise and work together on a variety of activities that will benefit all consumers of medicines in our respective countries”.

Potential areas of collaboration identified include:

- Elaboration of chemical and herbals monographs;
- Development of joint inspections of manufacturing sites under the framework of the European Pharmacopoeia procedure of certification;
- Promotion of common training activities in the pharmacopoeial field;
- Scientific co-operation by inviting pharmaceutical scientists to the EDQM;
- Facilitation of information exchange;
- Observer status for the European Pharmacopoeia to the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission.

The EDQM and Indian authorities have worked closely together since 2002, when EDQM staff participated in a DIA conference organised in Goa on 25-27 October 2002. Since then, both authorities are in regular contact and have held several meetings to prepare the foundation for further co-operation.

[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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