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

TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINES (TCM): NEW COLLABORATION WITH THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES

On 24 June 2011, the EDQM signed a trilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China (SATCM) and its National Key Institute of TCM Quality Control (NKI-TCM). The SATCM is the state organisation of the Chinese Ministry of Health responsible for the development of TCM and ethnic medicines. The NKI-TCM is a Chinese national key research institute, established with full support of the SATCM. The MoU sets forth the basis upon which the parties will provide for mutual assistance and exchange of information in the elaboration of quality standards for TCM herbal drugs.

Under the terms of the MoU, the parties commit to strengthen the establishment of high quality standards for TCM in Europe to protect patient safety, and to further promote the modernisation of TCM so that patients can benefit from its preventive and therapeutic effects.

In addition to the observership of the State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) to the European Pharmacopoeia Commission and the MoU signed between the EDQM and the National Institutes for Food and Drug Control (NIFDC) of the People's Republic of China in 2010, this is a further step to provide appropriate quality standards for TCM that are being increasingly used by patients in Europe.

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Note for the Editors: 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 worldwide. 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.

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.

¹There are currently 37 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 Organisation (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.*