



STRASBOURG, 11/06/08

Note to editors: The work of the Council of Europe's European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) effectively contributes to combating the counterfeiting of medicines by establishing coordination at various levels between European states:

- The elaboration of common, mandatory quality standards for all medicines (European Pharmacopoeia, covering over 2000 medicinal substances) and reference materials;
- The establishment of a cooperation system between Official Medicines Control Laboratories, OMCL in Europe (approximately 100 laboratories in 35 countries);

In addition in the context of pharmaceutical follow up activities, the Committee of Experts on minimising public health risks posed by counterfeiting of medical products and related crimes is devising a special work programme on the action to take to combat the counterfeiting of medicines and related crimes, by putting forward a set of coherent measures, comprising model approaches, multi-disciplinary co-operation between the sectors concerned, the setting up of a special information system in this field and the concept of regular training.

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS ORGANISING TRAINING ON BEST PRACTICES TO COMBAT COUNTERFEITING OF MEDICINES AND PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

The unique nature of the training offered by the Council of Europe's EDQM is to regularly bring together the different players and partners concerned by the counterfeiting of medicines (police, custom authorities, inspectors etc.) encouraging a borderless, multi-sector approach to efficiently combating the counterfeiting of medicines and related offences in Europe.

The training will take place from 26 to 27 June at the EDQM in Strasbourg (France), attended by the Chair of the Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter and Employment, who will officially open the session at 9:15 am.

The workshops will focus on methods to gain awareness of the responsibilities, existing control systems, and practical investigation procedures and the standard procedures to apply, as well as the interaction between different sectors and disciplines concerned.

This training is a major contribution to the fight against counterfeit medicines as it encourages effective cooperation between the different stakeholders on a European scale in the various fields concerned. In order to create long-term consistency, the EDQM will provide support for the management and development of multi-sector course concepts relating to the fight against the counterfeiting of medicines in order to protect public health in Europe by creating an ongoing training platform.

A press briefing will take place on 25 June at 3 pm with: Ms Susanne Keitel, Director of the EDQM, Council of Europe, Mr Jean Marc Spieser, Head of Department Biological Standardisation, OMCL & HealthCare activities, EDQM, Mr Bernard Marquet, Chair of the Sub-Committee on the European Social Charter and Employment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Mr Domenico Di Giorgio, Chair of the European Committee on Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Care. For the complete programme and for further information, please contact Estelle Steiner: Estelle.steiner@coe.int.

Through its activities to combat counterfeit medicines and related offences threatening public health, the Council of Europe is making an active contribution to the implementation of a high-level requirement for the protection of public health and the promotion of human rights and human dignity.

[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.](#)