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THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION HAS ELECTED A NEW CHAIR

The European Pharmacopoeia Commission during its 127th session has elected Prof. Hendrick Jan de Jong as Chair for a term running from June 2007 to June 2010. Prof. H. J. de Jong thus becomes the 15th Chair of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission since 1964 and will be appointed to his new duties for the 128th session of the Commission in June 2007. He succeeds Dr Michael Morris who has chaired the Commission since June 2004.

Dr Michael Morris in his opening remarks outlined the considerable progress that had been achieved in the priority areas defined by the present Presidium: the revision and harmonisation with ICH of the control of impurities; revision of early monographs; introduction of methods for the verification of the functionality of excipients in the formulation of medicines; alternatives to animal testing; international harmonisation. Closing the 127th session, Dr Morris congratulated Professor de Jong on his election, and thanked him and Dr Koszegi-Szalai for their considerable support in the Presidium., and to all the Commission for their support. He also expressed sincere thanks to the Director, Mr Castle as Secretary to the European Pharmacopoeia and to all the staff at EDQM for their hard work and tremendous support during the last three years in particular. The outgoing Chair stated that he is very happy with the way that the Presidium has worked so well as a team, and is confident that it will continue to do so under the direction of the new Chair.

At the 128th session, the Commission will elect two new Vice-chairs and a new Presidium that will help define its priority areas and objectives for the next three years.

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Notes for the Editors:

Prof. Hendrick Jan de Jong (Henk) (1943) is a Dutch national, who graduated in chemistry and physics from Leiden University, the Netherlands in 1970. He became Professor of pharmaceutical analysis at this university in 1974, and in 1978 also in analytical chemistry. He was appointed Head of the Analytical Department in 1978 and was chairman of the Sub-faculty of Pharmacy from 1980 to 1984.

In 1984 he moved to France to work for Servier, a privately owned pharmaceutical company, as Director Analytical and Pharmaceutical Development. He later became General Manager of Preclinical Development, International Regulatory Affairs, International Scientific Relations, and since September 2006, has held the position of Senior Advisor Pharmaceutical Sciences.

He has been member of the Dutch and the French Pharmacopoeia Commissions and is a member of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission. He was elected vice-chair in June 2004 and holds this position until June 2007. He participates in the work of Expert Groups on General Methods, Organic Chemistry and on Propellants and he chairs expert groups on Organic chemistry both at European and national level (France).

He participates in the International Conference on Harmonisation (ICH) in the field of quality and especially on pharmacopoeial topics.

His main activities and research interests are pharmaceutical quality topics such as the characterisation of pharmaceutical ingredients (excipients and actives) and anti-counterfeit actions at a national (France and the Netherlands), European (Council of Europe) and global-level (WHO IMPACT, the World Health Organisation International Medical Products Anti-Counterfeiting Taskforce).