



Strasbourg, 19/05/09

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PHARMACOPOEIA AUTHORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA, 11-12 MAY, BELGRADE, SERBIA

The annual meeting of the National Pharmacopoeia Authorities of the European Pharmacopoeia member states took place in Belgrade on 11 to 12 May 2009. The meeting, a unique platform for open exchange of information and discussion between the secretariats of national pharmacopoeia authorities and the European pharmacopoeia, was hosted by ALIMs, the Medicines and Medical Devices Agency of Serbia, founded in 2004. Twenty-three of the thirty-six member states participated in this event¹.

Topics discussed included possible ways to optimise handling of comments to the draft pharmacopoeia texts published in Pharmeuropa processed by member states and EDQM, especially when these comments arise from countries outside the Convention of the European Pharmacopoeia; upcoming systematic changes in the 7th Edition of the European Pharmacopoeia, to be published in June 2010; new developments in the area of standards terms, as well as ways to improve the cooperation between the different national pharmacopoeias to make best use of scarce resources. Furthermore, the group identified the need to support the development of age appropriate paediatric medicines by developing respective general texts and monographs for substances with a special interest for these formulations for the European Pharmacopoeia. It is intended to hold a workshop on this topic with stakeholders later this year.

The next meeting of the National Pharmacopoeia Authorities will take place in Uppsala in May 2010.

Note for the Editors

The European Pharmacopoeia¹ and the EDQM (a Directorate of the Council of Europe notably in charge of the secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia) have a mission to protect and promote public and animal health, through the elaboration of quality standards of medicines for human and veterinary use.

Medicines need to be safe, efficacious and of good quality in order to produce the expected therapeutic benefit. The EDQM works closely with its international and European partners to strengthen measures in order to ensure that substandard or counterfeit medicines do not reach the marketplace.

The EDQM's networks collaborate on a daily basis with all the authorities involved in the standardisation, regulation and control of medicines for human and veterinary use. The EDQM has expanded progressively its responsibilities to include new areas: blood transfusion, organ transplantation, the legal classification of medicines and the co-ordination, on a European scale, of the fight against the production, transportation and distribution of counterfeit medicines. Activities in the field of cosmetic products and food contact materials were transferred to the EDQM in 2009.

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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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 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.