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

THE HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE BECOMES THE 24TH OBSERVER TO THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA COMMISSION

The European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM) of the Council of Europe is pleased to announce that the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) of Singapore has been granted observer status to the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.) Commission. The decision brings to 24 the number of observers¹ of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission.

The granting of observer status will allow HSA representatives to participate in the scientific work of the Commission and its expert meetings, to attend the Commission sessions and to become involved in other EDQM activities such as in the field of official medicines and cosmetic control laboratories. This decision will allow the development of a mutually beneficial relationship and help the EDQM to stay informed of public health matters and share expertise on issues pertinent to the pharmaceutical sector.

The Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia is an international Convention adopted by the Council of Europe in 1964. It has the objective of progressively elaborating a pharmacopoeia in Europe that is common to all the member states and which defines a single set of specifications that will become the official standards applicable within these countries for active substances and excipients used in medicines. The European Pharmacopoeia also describes test methods to ensure the quality of these medicines.

The EDQM has as a mission the protection and promotion of public and animal health through enabling the development, supporting the implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Its standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally-binding in its Member States². Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantations and consumer health issues.

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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.

¹ The World Health Organisation (WHO); 6 member states of the Council of Europe: Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Russian Federation and Ukraine; 17 other countries in the world: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Singapore, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America.

² There 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.