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UKRAINE BECOMES THE 38th MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PHARMACOPOEIA

On 17 December 2012, the Permanent Representation of Ukraine to the Council of Europe handed to Mr Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, its instrument of accession to the *European Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia* [European Treaty Series n° 050], as amended by the Protocol of 16 November 1989. This text will enter into force in Ukraine on 18 March 2013. Ukraine is the 38th member of the European Pharmacopoeia.

Ratification of this Convention marks the desire of the Ukrainian authorities to participate in the development of European standards for the quality of medicines and to strengthen their collaboration with European countries in the field of medicines and healthcare, with the objective to share knowledge and expertise in order to better serve public health. It also shows the importance of the work of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission at international level.

The Convention, adopted by the Council of Europe in 1964, 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 and test methods that will become the official standards applicable within these countries for active substances and excipients used in medicines. The European Pharmacopoeia thus ensures the quality of medicines and facilitates their free movement in Europe and beyond.

There are now thirty-eight 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, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union*. There are twenty-four observers: *the World Health Organization (WHO); 5 member states of the Council of Europe - Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and the Russian Federation; and 18 other countries in the world - Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Israel, Madagascar, Malaysia, Morocco, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Singapore, Senegal, Syria, Tunisia, United States of America*.

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

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 world-wide. The European Pharmacopoeia 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.