## 11 June 2018, Metz, France

# EDQM/European Pharmacopeia: new building will ensure continuity in pharmaceutical reference standards supply

The first stone of the new secondary site of the Council of Europe's European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare (EDQM) was laid today. The new site will be used to store its portfolio of over 3 000 pharmaceutical reference standards, as an addition to those already in stock at the main EDQM building in Strasbourg. Based in Metz, north-eastern France, this site will be key to contribute to ensuring the sustainability and continuity of the EDQM's public health protection mission, in the case for instance of problems affecting the Strasbourg site. Reference standards are fundamental to test the quality of medicines and therefore allow the release of the thousands of batches of medicines that are put on the world markets every day, while ensuring a continuous supply.

Conceived as an alternative site to the existing one in Strasbourg, the new building will also increase the storage capacity of reference standards for medicines and their ingredients, therefore allowing the EDQM to ensure a seamless and continuous supply of the reference standards in all circumstances. The new building will have strictly operational functions; it will allow for a reserve stock of pharmaceutical reference standards to be used in all sorts of emergency situations that may affect the EDQM main building in Strasbourg.

The EDQM plays a key role in ensuring the quality of medicines: it ships its reference standards to over 115 countries around the world and its portfolio is constantly evolving to keep up with new and revised technical and scientific requirements in Pharmacopoeial texts. The EDQM technical expertise and experience in establishing compendial reference standards is valued by the World Health Organisation (WHO), as the EDQM is also responsible for the establishment, preparation, storage and distribution of the WHO's international chemical reference standards and international standards for antibiotics.

The new building will have 3 main areas: one dedicated to logistics — such as storage, preparation and delivery of reference standards, another for informatics and pharmaceutical support, and a technical area on the upper level. The new building will allow the storage of approximately 12 000 000 vials (i.e. 376 pallets of products) at temperatures of +5°C, -20°C and -80°C.

**Contact**: Caroline Larsen Le Tarnec, Public Relations Division, EDQM, Council of Europe
Tel.: +33 (0) 3 88 41 28 15 - E-mail: caroline.letarnec@edqm.eu

**Note for the Editor**: Further information is available on the internet site **https://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 worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states[1]. Similarly, the EDQM develops

guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

[1]There are thirty-nine members of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

***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.***