

**17 July 2020, Strasbourg, France**

## **Ten years at the service of consumer safety in Europe: over 600 analytical methods for cosmetics testing, 20 studies, 50 laboratories and more expected to join**

The experts of the European Committee for Cosmetics and Consumer Health (CD-P-COS) held a virtual meeting on 22 and 23 June to define steps for advancing consumer protection in Europe and for reinforcing cross-border co-operation and independent cosmetics testing. The meeting also marked the 10th anniversary of the Network of Official Cosmetics Control Laboratories (OCCLs), which supports laboratories across Europe and beyond in developing their market surveillance and enhancing product testing capacity.

The OCCL Network began operations in 2010 with nine official laboratories. Today it comprises over 50, based in 29 countries in Europe and beyond. Its database for analytical methods applied in cosmetics testing now contains more than 600 entries, of which 515 for physico-chemical testing, 100 for microbiological testing and 16 for biological testing. More than 20 major collaborative projects have been carried out within the network, covering UV filters in sunscreen products, parabens in lipsticks, allergens in lotions, "perfume-free" cosmetics and cosmetics for children.

On the margins of the meeting, Susanne Keitel, Director of the EDQM, expressed satisfaction with the achievements: "Over these 10 years we have strengthened consumer safeguards, based on cross-border collaboration, benchmarking product quality and safety, data sharing, quality management and training. The EDQM now looks forward to more cosmetics testing laboratories joining us in our mission of ensuring the broadest level of consumer safety in Europe and beyond."

To mark the occasion, the EDQM, acting as the Secretariat of the network, launched a series of new web pages, which [present some of the OCCLs' achievements](#) and showcase the latest methodological advancements in the field of cosmetics testing in Europe and further afield.

The OCCL Network interacts with the European Commission, the Platform of European Market Surveillance Authorities in Cosmetics (PEMSAC), the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Committee for Standardization (ISO/CEN). It regularly exchanges information with the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), Singapore, and the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA). The OCCL Network plays a central role in co-ordinating product testing and common market surveillance campaigns in Europe. It does so by elaborating policy and quality management documents, and by developing and validating analytical methods for the control of cosmetics.

More information on the [OCCL network](#) and the [European Committee for Cosmetics and Consumer Health \(CD-P-COS\)](#).

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**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 the development, supporting the implementation, and the 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.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

1. There are 40 members of the [European Pharmacopoeia Commission](#): *Austria, Albania, 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, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, 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.***