The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

1 October 2002
EMEA/CPMP/4634/02

COMMITTEE FOR PROPRIETARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS
17-19 SEPTEMBER 2002 PLENARY MEETING
MONTHLY REPORT

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) held its 85th plenary meeting from 17 to 19 September 2002.

The CPMP Chairman welcomed Prof. Bruno Flamion, the new Belgian CPMP Member who shall replacing Pharm. Geert De Greef who resigned last month. Furthermore the Chairman on behalf of the CPMP welcomed Ms Maria-Teresa Pages-Jimenez as new European Commission representative at the CPMP. Ms Pages-Jimenez takes over from Mrs Arielle North who attended her last CPMP in July 2002. Mrs Arielle North and Pharm. Geert De Greef were thanked and congratulated for all the achievements and contributions made during their four years of participation to the CPMP meetings.

Product related issues

Centralised procedures

The CPMP adopted an opinion on an initial marketing authorisation application at this meeting:

- A positive opinion by consensus for **Theryttrex** (Yttrium (Y-90)) (Part B) from MDS Nordion S.A. which is a radionuclide intended for the radiolabelling of carrier molecules (for further details, please see the published Summary of Opinion (EMEA/H/C/445)). EMEA review began on 17 September 2001 and the opinion was adopted on 19 September 2002, with an active review time of 177 days.

The Committee also adopted 2 opinions by consensus on "line extension" applications (1 Part A and 1 Part B) (in accordance with Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 542/95, as amended) and 4 Lists of Questions (4 Part B) on initial marketing authorisation applications.

The Committee also gave positive opinions for a number of new indications for already authorised medicinal products:

- Extension of the indication for **Enbrel** (etanercept) from Wyeth Europe to include second-line treatment of active and progressive psoriatic arthritis in adults. Enbrel was first authorised in the European Union in February 2000.
- Two extensions of indications for **Glivec** (imatinib mesylate) from Novartis. These relate to an extension to include first-line treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) for adults and also an extension to include first-line treatment of children with CML. Glivec is a designated orphan medicinal product in the European Union and was first authorised in November 2001.
- Two extensions of indications for **Taxotere** (docetaxel) from Aventis. These relate to an extension to include, in combination with cisplatin, the first-line treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non small cell lung cancer and also an extension to include a second-line therapy in combination with capecitabine in patients with locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. Taxotere was first authorised in the European Union in November 1995.

Further information on these extensions will be included in the public assessment report (EPAR) once the European Commission has granted final approval.

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Review of Marketing Authorisation Suspension

Further to the Commission Decision on the suspension of the Marketing Authorisation for **Tasmar** (tolcapone), on the basis of safety concerns, the CPMP reviewed available data provided by the Marketing Authorisation Holder and adopted an opinion by consensus recommending that the suspension of the Marketing Authorisation be renewed for another year.

An overview of centralised procedures since 1995 is given in **Annex 1**. The list of medicinal products for which marketing authorisations have been granted by the European Commission since the CPMP plenary meeting in July 2002 is provided in **Annex 2.** The post-authorisation centralised procedures finalised during this meeting are summarised in **Annex 3**.

Referrals

Referral under Article 30 of Directive 2001/83/EC (formally known as Article 11 of Council Directive 75/319/EEC, as amended)

The CPMP adopted opinions on:

- **Prozac** and associated invented names (fluoxetine) from Eli Lilly. The purpose of the referral was to harmonise the product information in all EU Member States. The harmonised indications recommended by the Committee are for the product's use in major depressive episodes, obsessive-compulsive disorders and as a complement to psychotherapy in the treatment of bulimia nervosa. The procedure began in March 2001, following a referral by France under Article 30 of the Community Code on human medicines (ex-Article 11 of Council Directive 75/319/EEC).
- **Renitec** and associated invented names (enalapril) from Merck Sharp & Dohme. The main purpose of the referral was to harmonise the product information in all EU Member States. The harmonised indications recommended by the Committee are in treatment of hypertension, symptomatic heart failure and the prevention of symptomatic heart failure in patients with asymptomatic left ventricular dysfunction. The procedure began in May 2001, following a referral by France under Article 30 of the Community Code on human medicines (ex-Article 11 of Council Directive 75/319/EEC).
- **Leponex** and associated invented names (clozapine) from Novartis. The main purpose of the referral was to harmonise the product information in all EU Member States. The harmonised indications recommended by the Committee are intended for treatment-resistant schizophrenic patients, in schizophrenia patients who have severe, untreatable neurological adverse reactions to other antipsychotic agents and in treatment of psychotic disorders occurring during the course of Parkinson's disease. The procedure began in October 2000, following a referral by France under Article 30 of the Community Code on human medicines (ex-Article 11 of Council Directive 75/319/EEC).

Referral under Article 36 of Directive 2001/83/EC (formally known as Article 15a of Council Directive 75/319/EEC, as amended)

- The CPMP initiated a referral procedure under Article 36 of Directive 2001/83/EC for five generic **felodipine**-containing medicinal products authorised in a number of Member States through the mutual recognition procedure. The referral relates to concerns raised following a GCP inspection on the studies submitted in support of the marketing authorisations. The referral, made by Germany under Article 36 of the Community Code on human medicines (ex-Article 15a of Council Directive 75/319/EEC), does not relate to the reference product.

Scientific Advice procedures

The CPMP was informed of the outcome of the discussions of the Scientific Advice Review Group (SciARG) meeting, which was held on Monday 16 September 2002. For further details, please see **Annex 4**.

Invented Name Review Group

The invented Name Review Group (NRG), held its 32nd meeting on Monday 16 September 2002 and the conclusions of the group were subsequently adopted by the CPMP.

Non-product related issues

CPMP Working Parties and Ad Hoc Groups

- The CPMP adopted the final report from **Ad Hoc Expert group on Gene Therapy** meeting, held on 4 July 2002, where topics for the first ICH Workshop on Gene Therapy, held in Washington in September 2002, have been discussed. The CPMP has also been informed that Dr L. Tsang resigned as Chairperson of the group and a new Chairperson will be nominated at an upcoming CPMP meeting.
- The **Ad Hoc Expert Group on Xenogenic Cell Therapy** chaired by Dr P. Kurki was held on 18 September 2002. A draft of the compiled multidisciplinary Points to Consider paper was issued, covering quality, safety, efficacy and pharmacovigilance aspects.
- Following the June 2002 Press Release on the **1st EMEA/CPMP Workshop with Patients' Organisations** held on 31 May 2002, the report of the meeting will be published on the EMEA website.

Upcoming meetings:

- The **Paediatric Expert Group** meeting, chaired by Dr. D. Brasseur, will be held on 20 September 2002. The PEG will discuss several issues, including the renal function in neonates/the maturation of the immune system and the potential consequences for the evaluation of medicinal products. In addition, the PEG will continue with the identification of therapeutic needs in children in Europe based on the work carried out by the French Authorities.
- The **Ad Hoc Expert Group on Pharmacogenetics** meeting, chaired by Dr E. Abadie, will be held on 30 September 2002 to finalise a position paper on Terminology in pharmacogenetics and discuss proposals for briefing sessions with Industry.
- The **Ad Hoc Working Group on (pre) – clinical comparability of Biotechnology medicinal products** meeting, chaired by Dr M.Toivonen, will be held on 2 October 2002.
- A **workshop on Methodology of Clinical trials for Efficacy Evaluation in small populations** will be held on 22 October 2002 at the EMEA. This meeting will be co-chaired by Prof. Josep Torrent-Farnell and Dr Daniel Brasseur.
- The **Ad Hoc Expert Group on Oncology** chaired by Dr B. Jonsson, will hold its assessors' meeting as well as a meeting with interested parties on novel approaches in oncology (ESMO) on 21 and 22 October 2002 in Nice.
- A **Workshop on Viral Safety Evaluation** is to be held on 13 and 14 November 2002 with the objective to contribute to reinforcing networking amongst assessors from National Agencies and EMEA, maintaining the regulatory knowledge of assessors throughout the European Union and facilitating harmonisation of practices and implementation of guidelines.
- The next **Vaccine Expert Group** meeting, chaired by Dr. R. Dobbelaer, will be held on 19 and 20 December 2002 to discuss a number of issues including development of guidance in relation to adjuvants and input into finalisation of the Note for guidance on "Points to Consider on the Development of Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccines (CPMP/BWP/2289/01)".

ICH

- An update on ICH topics was presented to the CPMP following the ICH meeting held in Washington on 9-12 September 2002. The CPMP noted that the final version of the **electronic Common Technical Document** (Step 4 ICH M2 e-CTD) was signed off by the ICH Steering Committee in Washington on 12 September 2002. The final edited version is expected by the end of September 2002 and will be forwarded to CPMP for endorsement at its October 2002 meeting. For further details of ICH/CPMP documents adopted or released for consultation at this meeting, please see **Annex 5**.

Interested Parties meetings:

- The EMEA held a joint meeting with representatives of the EFPIA on 16 September 2002 to discuss the Scientific Advice and Centralised Procedure Performance Indicators 2001/2002 analysis in advance of the EFPIA Info-day meeting scheduled to take place on 18 October 2002 at the Britannia International Hotel, Canary Wharf, London.

- The first Joint COMP/all Interested Parties meeting will be held at the Britannia International Hotel, Canary Wharf, London on 2 and 3 December 2002 on the topic of 'Policy Continuity for Orphan Medicines in the EU'.

Organisational Matters

The 15th CPMP ORGAnisational Matters (ORGAM) meeting took place on Monday 16 September 2002, chaired by Dr Daniel Brasseur. During the meeting the following topics were presented/discussed:

- **Scientific Advice Review Group (SciARG):** The potential future needs to change SciARG meeting organisation was considered. This will be further discussed at the next ORGAM meeting.
- **EMEA Risk Management Strategy:** The strategy proposed by the EMEA was considered. Further discussions will take place at the next ORGAM meeting in October 2002.
- **SPC Guideline update**: CPMP discussed the content of section 4.1 *versus* section 5.1. An analysis was made/presented and will be further developed in subsequent meetings.

PROCEDURAL ANOUNCEMENT

MOCK-UP & SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW APPLICATIONS

Further to the implementation of the "New product information linguistic review process" (http://www.emea.eu.int/pdfs/human/regaffair/554202en.pdf), the EMEA would like to clarify the mock-up and specimen requirements for new applications in the Centralised Procedure. In addition, a working group at the EMEA is reviewing the overall mock-up & specimen checking process for all types of applications, the outcome of which will be shared with interested parties in due time.

The requirements mentioned below can therefore only be seen as an 'interim' arrangement, awaiting final proposals from the working group.

At submission (Day 0):
One English mock-up (preferably in colour) and one multi-lingual mock-up ("worst-case") of the outer and inner packaging for each pharmaceutical form in the smallest pack-size must be included in Module 1.3.4 of the application.

At submission of the answers to the list of questions (Day 121)
Mock-ups of labelling and package leaflet/insert no longer need to be provided at Day 121.

After adoption of the CPMP opinion (Day 210)
A reduced mock-up package will have to be submitted by Day 260. At this stage, the linguistic checking procedure will be finalised and the Applicant is expected to reflect the latest agreed translations, incorporating all comments made, into the mock-ups. The EMEA will perform the mock-up check in 30 days in parallel to the Standing Committee consultation.

Mock-ups must be submitted for the smallest pack-size of each strength and pharmaceutical form, for each container type (e.g. vial, pen…) for all Member States, based on the latest version of the product information, together with a commitment that all other pack-sizes will be identical -except for pack-size specific information- and that EMEA comments will also be implemented in the other pack-sizes.

The translations timetable, to be adopted at Day 210, will reflect this new requirement accordingly.

Before launch
Once the medicinal product is authorised and in all cases before the medicinal product is placed on the market, specimens of the final outer and inner packaging and the package leaflet must be submitted for review to the EMEA within a timeframe agreed between the EMEA and the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

PROCEDURAL ANOUNCEMENT (CONT'd)

RE-ORGANISATION OF SUBMISSION DATES 2003/2004 FOR APPLICANTS/MAHs FOR "**FULL APPLICATIONS", "FULL APPLICATIONS" RESPONSES to LIST of QUESTIONS**, **TYPE II VARIATIONS, ANNUAL RE-ASSESSMENT and RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

The CPMP agreed to change the published submission dates for "full applications", "full applications" responses to the List of Questions) and "Type II variations" as well as renewals and annual re-assessment applications, from 12 "start dates" per year to only 11 "start dates" per year for Applicants/Marketing Authorisation Holders. In practical terms, this means that **no submission are possible in the month of April 2003/2004 for "full applications"** and during the month of **June 2003/2004 for "responses to the List of Questions", Type II variation, annual re-assessment and renewal applications.** The revised submission dates are described in **Annex 6**.

The above changes are being introduced to facilitate the assessment process and allow consistent timetables to be adopted.

Mutual Recognition procedure

The CPMP noted the report from the MRFG meeting held on 16 September 2002. The joint CPMP/MRFG Working Group on harmonisation of Summary Product of Characteristics' met on 16 September 2002. For further details, please see **Annex 7.**

The 86th plenary meeting of the CPMP will be held from 15 to 17 October 2002.

Noël Wathion
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This CPMP Monthly Report and other documents are available on the Internet at the following address: http://www.emea.eu.int

EMEA CENTRALISED PROCEDURES
AUGUST 2002 WRITTEN PROCEDURE AND SEPTEMBER 2002 CPMP MEETING

	1995-2001			2002			Overall Total
	Part A	Part B	Total	Part A	Part B	Total	
Scientific Advice	88	164	252	7	33	40	292
Follow-up to scientific advice	18	17	35	3	7	10	45
Protocol Assistance	0	2	2	2	2	4	6
Follow-up to Protocol Assistance	2	0	2	1	1	2	4

	1995-2001			2002			
	Part A	Part B	Total	Part A	Part B	Total	
Applications submitted	120	215	335	6	21	27	362
Withdrawals	15	45	60	4	5	9	69
Positive CPMP opinions	77	131	208	15	18	33	241[1]
Negative CPMP opinions[2]	1	4	5	0	0	0	5[3]
Marketing authorisations granted by the Commission	71	123	194	7	21	28	222[4]

	1995-2001			2002			Overall Total
	Part A	Part B	Total	Part A	Part B	Total	
Variations type I	448	806	1254	92	214	306	1560
Positive opinions, variations type II	285	362	647	89	117	206	853
Negative opinions, variations type II	1	6	7	0	0	0	7
Extensions (Annex II applications)	38	36	74	1	6	7	81

[1] 241 positive opinions corresponding to 180 substances
[2] In case of appeal the opinion will not be counted twice
[3] 5 negative opinions corresponding to 4 substances
[4] 222 marketing authorisations corresponding to 170 substances

MEDICINAL PRODUCTS GRANTED A COMMUNITY MARKETING AUTHORISATION UNDER THE CENTRALISED PROCEDURE SINCE JULY 2002 CPMP MONTHLY REPORT

Invented Name	Xigris
INN	recombinant human activated protein C
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Eli Lilly Nederland B.V.
ATC code	B01AD10
Indication	Treatment of sepsis associated with acute organ dysfunction
CPMP Opinion date	30/05/2002

Invented Name	Neulasta
INN	pegfilgrastim
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Amgen Europe
ATC code	L03AA13
Indication	Reduction in the duration of neutropenia
CPMP Opinion date	30/05/2002

Invented Name	Neupopeg
INN	pegfilgrastim
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Amgen Europe
ATC code	L03AA13
Indication	Reduction in the duration of neutropenia
CPMP Opinion date	30/05/2002

Invented Name	EVRA
INN	Norelgestromin - ethinylestradiol
Marketing Authorisation Holder	Janssen
ATC code	G03AA
Indication	Female Contraception
CPMP Opinion date	21/02/2002

Invented Name	Ambirix
INN	Inactivated hepatitis A virus antigen
Marketing Authorisation Holder	GlaxoSmithKline
ATC code	J07BC
Indication	Immunisation against hepatitis A and B infections
CPMP Opinion date	30/05/2002

OUTCOME OF THE AUGUST 2002 WRITTEN PROCEDURE AND SEPTEMBER 2002 CPMP MEETING IN RELATION TO CENTRALISED APPLICATIONS IN THE POST-AUTHORISATION PHASE

Opinions for Type II Variation applications	
Number of Opinions	**Outcome**
5 Extensions of indication	5 Positive opinions by consensus
21 SPC changes	21 Positive opinions by consensus
11 Quality changes	11 Positive opinions by consensus

Opinions for Annual re-assessment applications		
Name of Medicinal Product (INN) MAH	**Outcome**	**Comments**
Avonex (Interferon beta- la), Biogen France S.A.	Positive opinion by consensus	Marketing Authorisation to remain under exceptional circumstances
MabCampath (alemtuzumab), Millenium & Ilex UK Ltd	Positive opinion by consensus	Marketing Authorisation to remain under exceptional circumstances

Opinions for Renewal applications		
Name of Medicinal Product (INN) MAH	**Outcome**	**Comments**
Cerezyme (imiglucerase) Genzyme B.V.	Positive opinion by consensus	---

OUTCOME OF THE AUGUST WRITTEN PROCEDURE and SEPTEMBER 2002 CPMP MEETING IN RELATION TO SCIENTIFIC ADVICE PROCEDURES

Substance	Intended indications(s)	Topic				
		Type of Request		Pharma-ceutical	Pre-Clinical	Clinical
		New	Follow-up			
Chemical	Acute coronary syndrome	**X**				**X**
Chemical	Pain	**X**				**X**
Chemical	Cystic fibrosis	**X** (Protocol Assistance/ Significant benefit)			**X**	**X**
Chemical	Diabetes	**X**				**X**
Biological	Chronic hepatitis C	**X**				**X**

In September 2002, the above-mentioned 4 final Scientific Advice letters and 1 Protocol Assistance letter were adopted. The Committee accepted 3 new Scientific Advice requests, 1 request for Protocol Assistance and 1 follow-up Scientific Advice request.

DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY THE CPMP WORKING PARTIES AND AD-HOC GROUPS ADOPTED DURING THE SEPTEMBER 2002 CPMP MEETING

EFFICACY WORKING PARTY

EWP Revised Work programme for 2002 – 2003 was adopted and will be published on the EMEA website.

Reference number	Document	Status
CPMP/EWP/908/99	Points to consider on multiplicity issues in clinical trials	Adopted in September 2002
CPMP/EWP/596/02	Note for guidance on Evaluation of anticancer medicinal products in man – Addendum on paediatric oncology	Released in September 2002 for 6 month consultation
CPMP/EWP/788/01	Note for guidance on Clinical investigation of medicinal products for the treatment of migraine	Released in September 2002 for 6 month consultation

ICH

Reference number	Document	Status
CPMP/ICH/1940/00	ICH topic Q3C (M) - Maintenance of note for guidance on Impurities: Residual solvents. PDE for tetrahydrofuran (THF) and N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP)	Adopted in September 2002
CPMP/ICH/4680/02	ICH M4Q - Questions and answers / Location issues for Common Technical document for the registration of pharmaceuticals for human use – Quality.	Released in September 2002 for 2 month consultation
CPMP/ICH/4679/02	ICH V1* Addendum to ICH E2C - Clinical Safety Data Management Periodic Safety Update Reports for marketed Drugs (* provisional designation)	Released in September 2002 for 3 month consultation

RE-ORGANISATION OF SUBMISSION DATES 2003/2004 FOR APPLICANTS/MAHs
FOR "**FULL APPLICATIONS", "FULL APPLICATIONS" RESPONSES to LIST of QUESTIONS**, TYPE **II VARIATIONS, ANNUAL RE-ASSESSMENT and RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION DATES FOR "FULL APPLICATIONS" - 2003-2004

Submission Date	Start Date	Day 120 Adoption LoQ
03.01.03	20.01.03	20.05.03
07.02.03	24.02.03	24.06.03
07.03.03	24.03.03	22.07.03
N/A	N/A	N/A
09.05.03	26.05.03	23.09.03
06.06.03	23.06.03	21.10.03
04.07.03	21.07.03	18.11.03
01.08.03	18.08.03	16.12.03
05.09.03	22.09.03	20.01.04
10.10.03	27.10.03	24.02.04
07.11.03	24.11.03	23.03.04
05.12.03	22.12.03	20.04.04
09.01.04	26.01.04	25.05.04
06.02.04	23.02.04	22.06.04
12.03.04	29.03.04	27.07.04
N/A	N/A	N/A
30.04.04	17.05.04	14.09.04
04.06.04	21.06.04	19.10.04
02.07.04	19.07.04	16.11.04
30.07.04	16.08.04	14.12.04

RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION DATES FOR "FULL APPLICATIONS" RESPONSES to LIST OF QUESTIONS - 2003 - 2004

Submission of the Dossier	Start of Procedure	Day 90
16.01.03	23.01.03	23.04.03
12.02.03	19.02.03	20.05.03
19.03.03	26.03.03	24.06.03
16.04.03	23.04.03	22.07.03
14.05.03	21.05.03	19.08.03
N/A	N/A	N/A
16.07.03	23.07.03	21.10.03
13.08.03	20.08.03	18.11.03
10.09.03	17.09.03	16.12.03
15.10.03	22.10.03	20.01.04
19.11.03	26.11.03	24.02.04
17.12.03	24.12.03	23.03.04
14.01.04	21.01.04	20.04.04
18.02.04	25.02.04	25.05.04
17.03.04	24.03.04	22.06.04
21.04.04	28.04.04	27.07.04
19.05.04	26.05.04	24.08.04
N/A	N/A	N/A
14.0704	21.07.04	19.10.04
11.08.04	18.08.04	16.11.04
08.09.04	15.09.04	14.12.04

RE-ORGANISATION OF SUBMISSION DATES 2003/2004 FOR APPLICANTS/MAHs
FOR "**FULL APPLICATIONS", "FULL APPLICATIONS" RESPONSES to LIST of QUESTIONS**, **TYPE II VARIATIONS, ANNUAL RE-ASSESSMENT and RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

RECOMMENDED SUBMISSION DATES FOR TYPE II VARIATION, ANNUAL RE-ASSESSMENT and RENEWAL APPLICATIONS 2003 - 2004

Submission of the Dossier	Start of Procedure	Day 60
9-Aug-02	16-Aug-02	15-Oct-02
13-Sep-02	20-Sep-02	19-Nov-02
11-Oct-02	18-Oct-02	17-Dec-02
15-Nov-02	22-Nov-02	21-Jan-03
13-Dec-02	20-Dec-02	18-Feb-03
10-Jan-03	17-Jan-03	18-Mar-03
15-Feb-03	22-Feb-03	23-Apr-03
14-Mar-03	21-Mar-03	20-May-03
18-Apr-03	25-Apr-03	24-Jun-03
16-May-03	23-May-03	22-Jul-03
N/A	N/A	N/A
18-Jul-03	25-Jul-03	23-Sep-03
15-Aug-03	22-Aug-03	21-Oct-03
12-Sep-03	19-Sep-03	18-Nov-03
10-Oct-03	17-Oct-03	16-Dec-03
14-Nov-03	21-Nov-03	20-Jan-04
19-Dec-03	26-Dec-03	24-Feb-04
16-Jan-04	23-Jan-04	23-Mar-04
13-Feb-04	20-Feb-04	20-Apr-04
19-Mar-04	26-Mar-04	25-May-04
16-Apr-04	23-Apr-04	22-Jun-04
21-May-04	28-May-04	27-Jul-04
N/A	N/A	N/A
9-Jul-04	16-Jul-04	14-Sep-04
13-Aug-04	20-Aug-04	19-Oct-04
10-Sep-04	17-Sep-04	16-Nov-04
8-Oct-04	15-Oct-04	14-Dec-04

Report from the meeting held on 16 September 2002

General issues

Letter to trade associations (terfenadine containing medicinal products)

A letter will be sent to trade associations to remind marketing authorisation holders of updating the SPC's of terfenadine containing medicinal products. Reference is made to previous MRFG press releases (April/ June 2002).

Update of MRFG Documents

The following MRFG publications have been updated and will be published on the HoA/ MRFG website (http://www.medagencies.org):

- Position paper on repeat use of the mutual recognition procedure
- List of MRFG contact points - change in representation of Germany and the EU-Commission

Recommendation to Marketing Authorisation Holders (MAH), when choosing their future RMS after a Referral procedure (Art. 30, Dir. 2001/83/EC):

- The MRFG strongly recommends to MAHs to choose only one RMS for all strengths and pharmaceutical forms of a product.
- Reference should be made to the publication on the HoA/ MRFG website: "Recommendation for Mutual Recognition Procedure after finalisation of an arbitration procedure with a positive opinion by the CPMP and a positive decision by the EU-Commission"

ANNEX 1

Joint CPMP/ MRFG working Group on harmonisation of SPC's

- The WG continues the preparation of the referral of two products by the EU-Commission in October.
- The EGA was invited to propose ways to effectively achieve harmonisation between products within individual Member States. Standardized variation procedures as well as ways of monitoring the compliance with the decisions of the EU-Commission were discussed.

Meeting schedule

The next MRFG meeting will be held on **14 October 2002**.

An informal MRFG meeting will be held in Denmark on 23-25 September 2002.

The MRFG noted that 70 new mutual recognition procedures were finalised during the months of July and August 2002, as well as 401 type I and 97 type II variations.

The status as of 31st August 2002 of procedures under mutual recognition is as follows:

Year	Procedures from New applications finalised	Procedures from New applications in process	Procedures from Type I variations finalised	Procedures from Type I variations pending	Procedures from Type II variations finalised	Procedures from Type II variations pending	Arbitrations referred to CPMP
2002	264	119	1292	347	376	213	1 N.A. 5 Var.

84 new procedures (regarding 149 products) started in July and August 2002. The categories of these procedures are as follows:

1 new active substance (first authorisation in the European Community after RMS approval).

25 known active substances (already authorised in at least one member state) including **4** repeat use applications.

47 abridged applications including **9** multiple applications and **4** repeat use applications.

11 Line extension applications including **4** multiple applications and **2** repeat use applications.

The new procedures started last month relate to 16 full dossiers, 46 generics, 15 bibliographic applications, 1 fixed combination and 6 for different use, route or dose.

The procedures consisted of 81 chemical substances, 1 biological – blood product and 2 herbal medicinal products[1].

77 of these procedures were prescription-only medicinal products in the reference Member State and 7 were Non-prescription (including OTC) medicinal products[2].

1. As considered by RMS.
2. In this category products are classified as prescription-only or Non-prescription (OTC) products when the RMS has approved them accordingly, although the legal status is not part of the Mutual Recognition Procedure.

Number of countries involved in the new applications procedures started in June 2002

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
AT (2)	5
AT (1)	15
AT (1)	3
DE (1)	2
DE (1)	14
DE (1)	2
DE (1)	12
DE (1)	1
DE (1)	12
DE (1)	4
DE (1)	2
DE (2)	5
DE (3)	15
DE (1)	2
DE (3)	9
DE (3)	5
DE (3)	4
DE (3)	5
DK (1)	3
DK (4)	2
DK (1)	9

Reference Member State (number of products involved in the procedure)	Number of CMSs involved in the procedure
DK (1)	6
DK (1)	16
DK (4)	1
DK (4)	1
DK (4)	1
DK (4)	12
DK (4)	4
DK (1)	1
DK (1)	1
ES (1)	14
ES (1)	14
FI (1)	6
FI (1)	1
FI (2)	11
FI (2)	2
FI (2)	1
FR (2)	2
FR (2)	10
FR (1)	15
FR (1)	15
FR (2)	6
FR (2)	1
FR (1)	2
FR (1)	1
NL (3)	3
NL (1)	1
NL (2)	1
NL (2)	13
NL (2)	10
NL (3)	4
NL (1)	1
NL (1)	2
NL (2)	5
NL (2)	5
NL (2)	2
NL (3)	8
NL (2)	1
NL (2)	1
NL (3)	1
PT (1)	1
SE (1)	9
SE (1)	10
SE (1)	11
SE (1)	11
SE (3)	11
SE (1)	2
SE (6)	1
SE (1)	12
SE (1)	4
UK (2)	4
UK (1)	11
UK (2)	11
UK (1)	14
UK (2)	4
UK (1)	1
UK (1)	14
UK (2)	7
UK (1)	3
UK (1)	1
UK (1)	1
UK (2)	1
UK (1)	1
UK (1)	1

All documents mentioned in this press release can be found at the MRFG website at the European Medicines Authorities Windows under the heading SOP.

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