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PRESS RELEASE

The Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP) held an extraordinary meeting on 11 and 12 January 2001, under the chairmanship of Noël Wathion, Head of the Post-Authorisation Evaluation Unit.

The extraordinary meeting was convened at the beginning of the new three-year term of the CPMP in order to provide the opportunity to newly appointed CPMP members to get acquainted with the other members and with the functioning of the Committee.

The list of all CPMP members, together with their contact details, is annexed to this Press Release.

During the meeting the Committee started the discussion on a range of organisational issues:

- The role and responsibilities of CPMP members were addressed in the light of existing Community legislation. It was agreed that the role and responsibilities of the CPMP Chair and Vice-Chair as well as their interaction needs to be further addressed once their election has taken place.
- The scientific areas represented by the Committee members were carefully reviewed and it was agreed to explore how additional expertise in specific domains can be obtained.
- Recommendations were made by the EMEA Secretariat in relation to the organisation of CPMP meetings with a view of implementing such recommendations as of the February 2001 CPMP meeting.
- Taking into account the successful operation of current CPMP satellite meetings such as the Scientific Advice Review Group and the Ad Hoc Tradename Review Group meetings, it was agreed to investigate which additional satellite groups can be established.
- The involvement of expert groups in the assessment process as well as the interaction between the CPMP and its Working Parties was discussed. The importance of the involvement of Ad Hoc expert groups based on previous experience was stressed and recommendations on how to optimise such involvement will be prepared.
- It was agreed that the use of IT tools in supporting CPMP activities should be further promoted and the EMEA Secretariat will propose improvements in this particular field.

Discussions on the above subjects will continue during 2001 and should result in amendments to the current functioning of the CPMP, allowing the Committee to prepare itself for the increasing workload, especially in the post-authorisation field, and for the future challenges it will have to face.

The 67th plenary meeting of the CPMP will be held from 23 to 25 January 2001. During the meeting the election of the CPMP Chair and Vice-Chair will take place.

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This Press Release and other documents are available on the Internet at the following address:
<http://www.eudra.org/emea.html>



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