



European Medicines Agency
Press office

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PRESS RELEASE

Inauguration of the new Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products

The new Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC) held its inaugural meeting on 23 and 24 September 2004 at the EMEA in London. The launch of the new Committee follows the publication of a new Directive regarding traditional herbal medicinal products (Directive 2004/24/EC*) earlier this year. This new piece of European legislation introduces a simplified registration procedure for traditional herbal medicinal products in the EU Member States and establishes a Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products as part of the European Medicines Agency.

During the inaugural meeting the new Committee members and interested parties heard speeches from Paul Weissenberg (European Commission), Giuseppe Nisticó (rapporteur for the Directive during his time as Member of the European Parliament) and Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (Vice-president of the European Parliament). They all played key roles in developing European legislation for herbal medicines.

Thomas Lönngren, EMEA Executive Director, welcomed the Committee members at the EMEA. "The new Committee is a unique assembly of the best scientific experts in the field of herbal medicinal products on EU level. It will help to harmonise procedures and provisions concerning herbal medicinal products laid down in the Member States and to further integrate herbal medicinal products in the European regulatory framework."

The Committee will provide the Member States and the European institutions with the best possible scientific opinion on questions relating to herbal medicinal products. Its tasks include in particular the establishment of a draft list of herbal substances, preparations and combinations, and the elaboration of Community herbal monographs.

At the meeting Dr. Konstantin Keller (Germany) was elected as chairman and Dr. Heribert Pittner (Austria) as vice-chairman. The Committee has one member from each of the 25 EU Member States, in addition to one member each from Iceland and Norway. Each member has one alternate.

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NOTES:

1. Dr Keller is a pharmacist and head of the division of herbal, homoeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products at the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices in Bonn since 1983. He was the chairman of the Herbal Medicinal Products Working Party (HMPWP) at the EMEA between 1997 and 2004.
2. Dr Pittner is a medical doctor, specialising in pharmacology and toxicology. He is currently deputy head drug authorisation at the Austrian Ministry of Health and Women. Dr Pittner was the vice-chairman of the Herbal Medicinal Products Working Party (HMPWP) between 2002 and 2004. He is also a member of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) at the EMEA.
3. A list of the membership of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products is attached.
4. This press release, together with the speeches and presentations from the inaugural meeting, may be found on the EMEA web site at the following location: <http://www.emea.eu.int>.

* OJ L 136, 30.4.2004, p. 85

5. A more detailed meeting report will be published shortly.

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Membership of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC)

Chairman: Dr. Konstantin KELLER (Germany)

Member	Alternate	Nominating Member State
Dr Linda ANDERSON	Pharm. Sue HARRIS	United Kingdom
Pharm. Mariette BACKES-LIES	Pharm. Jacqueline GENOUX-HAMES	Luxembourg
Pharm. Steffen BAGER	(to be nominated)	Denmark
Dr Per CLAESON	Dr Ubonwan CLAESON	Sweden
Pharm. Christian CUSCHIERI	Pharm. Caroline ATTARD	Malta
Dr Dairine DEMPSEY	Dr Elaine BRESLIN	Ireland
Dr Wojciech DYMOWSKI	Dr Elzbieta WOJTASIK	Poland
Dr Anna-Liisa ENKOVAARA	Pharm. Sari KOSKI	Finland
Pharm. Gloria GARCÍA LORENTE	Dr Adela VELÁZQUEZ	Spain
Prof. Catherine HARVALA	Dr Foteini TZAVELLA	Greece
Dr Marie HEROUTOVÁ	(to be nominated)	Czech Republic
Dr Konstantin KELLER	Dr Christine WERNER	Germany
Pharm. Thorbjorg KJARTANSDOTTIR	Prof. Dr Kristin INGOLFSDOTTIR	Iceland
Dr Andrea KUPKOVA	Dr Ľudmila ŠTRBOVÁ	Slovak Republic
Dr Audronis LUKOSIUS	(to be nominated)	Lithuania
Dr Steinar MADSEN	(to be nominated)	Norway
Pharm. Ana Paula MARTINS	Dr Helena PINTO FERREIRA	Portugal
Dr Aleš MLINARIČ	Pharm. Barbara RAZINGER	Slovenia
Dr Dailonis PAKALNS	Pharm. Dace KALKE	Latvia
Dr Heribert PITTNER	Prof. Wolfgang KUBELKA	Austria
Pharm. Marje SAARSOO	Pharm. Ain RAAL	Estonia
Dr Antoine SAWAYA	Dr Jacqueline VIGUET POUPELLOZ	France
Prof. Vittorio SILANO	Pharm. Marisa DELBÓ	Italy
Pharm. Panayiotis TRIANTAFYLLIS	Pharm. Maria STAVROU	Cyprus
Prof. Arnold VLIETINCK	Dr Heidi NEEF	Belgium
Dr Emiel VAN GALEN	Dr Burt KROES	The Netherlands