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Veterinary Medicines Evaluation Unit

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PRESS RELEASE

Joint TAIEX/EMEA Central Eastern European Countries Forum on the Regulation of Veterinary Medicinal Products

The first joint TAIEX/EMEA Central Eastern European Countries Forum on the Regulation of Veterinary Medicinal Products was held at the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products in London on 7-18 June 1999.

Opening the meeting Fernand Sauer, the Executive Director of the EMEA said that he welcomed this first opportunity to host such a meeting of veterinary regulatory officials from the associated countries to the EMEA. "It gives the EMEA great pleasure to take this very important step towards collaborating with the CEECs in harmonising the approaches to regulating veterinary medicines across Europe" Mr Sauer said.

In his opening remarks Vice-Professor Alfred Hera, Director of the State Institute for Control of Veterinary Immunologicals and Medicaments in the Czech Republic stated: "This seminar represents the fulfilment of a long-held objective by the associated countries to become more involved with the EMEA in the regulation of veterinary medicines in Europe, and we are delighted to play a full and active part in such a meeting." Tibor Soos Director State Control Institute for Veterinary Biologicals, Drugs and Feed in Hungary in the introductory paper summarised the expectations of the meeting saying that colleagues were looking forward to gaining a full and detailed understanding of the authorisation systems in the EU and the role of the EMEA.

Dr Lembit Rägo, Director General of the Estonian State Agency for Medicines encouraged participating colleagues to consider the advantages of extending the current procedure on the granting of a marketing authorisation by Central and Eastern European Countries, for medicinal products for human use authorised centrally in the EU, to veterinary medicine. There was a large consensus of those present in support of such a move and the EMEA's Veterinary Unit Secretariat confirmed its commitment to supporting such an initiative if the associated countries agreed to proceed in this manner. Other speakers from the Central Eastern European Countries included participants from the Czech Republic and Slovenia.

The main elements of the programme concentrated on the centralised procedure for authorisation of veterinary medicines and the role of CVMP and its working parties, summarised by speakers from CVMP, the EMEA Secretariat and industry representatives. In addition some key items of topical interest including Availability of Medicines, Antibiotic Resistance and International Harmonisation were highlighted, which added to the broad range of issues addressed by the participants. The different perspectives which all these issues attract were also addressed by Dr G Gallhoff from DG III at the European Commission and representatives of various interested parties including the European and Global Animal Health Federations and the European Federation of Veterinarians in industry.

In summarising the conclusions reached at the Forum, Hinrich Meyer-Gerbaulet from the TAIEX office of the Commission thanked the EMEA for what had been in all ways a highly successful and productive meeting and listed the recommendations as follows.

- More than half the countries represented are supportive of the development of a CADREAC agreement in veterinary medicines.

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- EMEA, TAIEX and the Central Eastern European Countries will explore further ways of collaboration through training initiatives and future meetings of topical interest.

- To continue to work together in pursuit of harmonisation of registration of veterinary medicines in Europe.

Peter Jones, the EMEA's Head of Veterinary Medicines Unit thanked all those attending for their active participation and contribution to the discussion. In his concluding remarks he said: "This meeting has undoubtedly seen the beginning of a major advance towards working together as an expanded European family in the field of veterinary medicines regulation and I welcome the initiatives of TAIEX to promoting such an initiative and want to re-emphasise the full commitment of EMEA to further collaboration in the work that lies ahead".

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