



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

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PRESS RELEASE

Meeting of the EMEA Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products

13-14 March 2001, EMEA London

The EMEA Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPWP) met for the twelfth time at the EMEA offices in London on 13-14 March 2001 under the chairmanship of Dr K. Keller.

During the meeting the Working Party discussed a range of organisational and technical issues, the main elements of which are summarised below:

- The role and responsibility of the HMPWP was addressed in the light of upcoming Community legislation and a revised Mandate has been prepared for 2001-2003. This Mandate will be presented for adoption at the Management Board.
- In the context of the Transparency initiatives at the EMEA, the Working Party discussed procedural aspects on the future release of HMPWP documents, which will also be presented at the Management Board for further consideration.
- The applicability of the Common Technical Document for the Registration of Pharmaceuticals (CPMP/ICH/2887/99) to Herbal Medicinal Products was discussed and an Ad hoc group was set-up to further develop this matter.
- The Working Party took note of the Note for guidance on Quality of Water for Pharmaceutical use (CPMP/QWP/158/01) finalised by the CPMP QWP in January 2001 and released for consultation by the CPMP in February 2001.
- The Working Party took note of the draft FIP-Guideline "Biopharmaceutical characterisation of Herbal Medicinal Products". A Rapporteur was assigned to follow this issue.
- The Working Party discussed pharmacovigilance and safety issues related to *Hypericum perforatum* and other herbal products. Positions of the Working Party will be transmitted to the Pharmacovigilance Working Party.

The next meeting of the working party is scheduled for 5-6 July 2001.

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