



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

London, 14 November 2003
Doc. Ref: EMEA/CPMP/HMPWP/5516/03

PRESS RELEASE

Meeting of the Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products

3-4 November 2003, EMEA London

The CPMP Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPWP) met for the sixth time at the EMEA offices in London on 3-4 November 2003 under the chairmanship of Dr K. Keller.

The Chairman welcomed new observers from the Accession Countries (Lithuania, Estonia and Malta).

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

- The Working Party finalised its Position papers on the use of herbal medicinal products containing **asarone** (HMPWP/41/03), **methyleugenol** (HMPWP/337/03) and **estragole** (HMPWP/338/03). The comments received during the consultation period (July to October 2003) were reviewed in the presence of an external expert from the UK. The Position paper on **Capsicum/capsaicin** containing herbal medicinal products (HMPWP/340/03) was also finalised.
- The HMPWP will finalise the Position statement on **Chamomilla** containing herbal medicinal products (HMPWP/345/03) at a future meeting.
- The HMPWP finalised the core-data on **Linseed** (HMPWP/244/03 Rev 1), **Primula** (HMPWP/243/03 Rev 1) and **Salicis cortex** (HMPWP/341/03 Rev 1), based on comments received from Interested Parties during the consultation period. The working Party took note of the comments received on the draft core data on **Nettle root** (HMPWP/342/03) and **Thymi herba** (HMPWP/343/03). The respective Rapporteurs will assess the new data submitted for further discussion by the HMPWP at a future meeting.
- Based on comments received on the draft Position paper on the **biopharmaceutical characterisation** of herbal medicinal products (HMPWP/344/03), the Working Party agreed that these would be reviewed by a subgroup.

The HMPWP met with a number of European Interested Parties* in a hearing session, during which each association was given the opportunity to comment on the achievements of the working party in the past year and on the perspectives for 2004 with the anticipated adoption of a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on traditional herbal medicinal products.

The publication of a second completely revised and expanded edition of ESCOP monographs was also announced and celebrated by all the participants in the hearing.

* AESGP (European Proprietary Medicines Manufacturers' Association), EHPM (European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers), Europam (European Herb Growers Association), ESCOP (European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy), GA (Society for Medicinal Plant Research), BEUC (Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs), CPEM (Standing Committee of European Doctors), EHPA (European Herbal Practitioners Association), PGEU (Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union).

Public

The HMPWP agreed to new meeting dates for 2004 as follows:

- **2-3 February**
- **3-4 June**
- **8-9 November 2004**

Two additional meeting dates were identified for April and September, to allow preparatory work by the HMPWP for the implementation of the future Directive on traditional herbal medicinal products, but these are subject to agreement by the EMEA Management Board.

Contact for further information:

Noël Wathion
Head of Unit
Post-Authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use
Tel. (+44-20) 74 18 85 92