I BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE

1. Submission of the Dossier

The company SmithKline Beecham Biologicals S. A., Belgium, submitted in December 1994 an application to all EU Member States for Tritanrix HepB through the Concertation Procedure (No. 93). In application to Article 2 of Directive 93/41/EEC, on 1 January 1995, the company SmithKline Beecham Biologicals S. A., Belgium, transferred to the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products and into the new centralised procedure the application for marketing authorisation for Tritanrix HepB, falling within the scope of Part A of the Annex to Council Regulation (EEC) 2309/93 of 22 July 1993.

The Rapporteur and Co-Rapporteurs appointed by CPMP were:

Rapporteur: Dr. Pieter Neels Co-Rapporteur: Dr. Manfred Haase

Licensing Status:

Tritanrix HepB is licensed in several non EU countries.

2. Steps Taken for the Assessment of the Product

- The Rapporteur's initial full assessment report was circulated to all Members of the CPMP on 31 January 1995.
- The CPMP, in its meeting on 13-14 March 1995, discussed extensively the different health protection policies in force in the EU member states with respect to the use of combined vaccines and vaccination schedules.
- The CPMP ad hoc Biotechnology Working Party during its meeting on 3-4 April 1995 circulated a draft list of questions. The possibility of confusion over the trade name of the product with other existing vaccines was also considered.
- The CPMP, in its meeting on 26-27 April 1995, finalised the list of questions to be sent to the company.
- The CPMP consolidated list of questions was sent to the company on 3 May 1995 and the running time of the evaluation procedure was stopped.
- The company submitted their responses report to the consolidated CPMP list of comments on 28 September 1995.
- The response assessment report was circulated to all CPMP Members by the Rapporteur on 16 November 1995.
- The company submitted on 16 November 1995, corrections made to the responses report submitted on 28 September 1995.
- The CPMP in its meeting on 21-22 November 1995, considered outstanding issues to be addressed by the company.
- A hearing with the company was agreed by the CPMP Members to take place in December 1995 to discuss outstanding questions.
- An Annex to the response assessment report, dealing with the corrections made by the company to the above mentioned consolidated response, was circulated by the Rapporteur on 29 November 1995.

- A meeting was held between the EMEA, the Rapporteur and the company on the 18 December 1995 to discuss the outstanding questions raised at the November CPMP meeting and to prepare the responses to be presented at the hearing during the CPMP meeting on 19-20 December 1995.

- The company presented the responses to the CPMP questions during a hearing on 19 December 1995. The company agreed to stop the clock until the written responses were circulated to all the CPMP members.

- The CPMP during its meeting on 16-18 January 1996, discussed and agreed to have a break-out session in the February CPMP meeting, with an expert from the WHO to discuss further the technical issues related to the vaccine and its therapeutic interest in other parts of the world outside the EU. Furthermore the Commission was asked to invite the WHO representative to the plenary meeting of the CPMP in February, in order to present an overview of the WHO's "Children's Vaccine Initiative" (CVI).

- The additional data presented by the company at the hearing in December 1995 was circulated to the CPMP members on 18 January 1996.

- The Rapporteur circulated the assessment report on the additional data on 31 January 1996.

- During the CPMP meeting on 13-15 February 1996, a break-out session with an expert from the WHO took place on 13 February 1996, to discuss the reactogenicity profiles of DTP_w and hepatitis B vaccines as separate injections and in the combination product under review.

- On 14 February 1996, representatives of the WHO and CVI (Children's Vaccine Initiative) presented to the CPMP an overview of WHO's "Children's Vaccines Initiative", as well as their recommendations and reasons for the need for such a combined vaccine, especially on a global level.

- On 19 February 1996, the company as requested by the CPMP in its meeting in February 1996, circulated supplementary information on the reactogenicity profile of marketed DTP_w vaccines, updated specifications and new amended text for the SPC, Package User Leaflet and labelling.

- The Rapporteur's assessment reports on the supplementary information provided by the company were circulated on 29 February 1996 (on quality issues, SPC, PUL and labelling) and on 6 March 1996 (reactogenicity profile).

- During the CPMP meeting on 12-14 March 1996, final discussions and subsequent agreement on texts for SPC, Package Labelling and Package Leaflet took place, resulting in the adoption of two positive Opinions for the monodose and multidose presentations of Tritanrix HepB.