



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

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PUBLIC STATEMENT

Meeting of the EMEA Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products

30-31 October 2000, EMEA London

The EMEA Working Party on Herbal Medicinal Products met for the eleventh time at the EMEA offices in London on 30-31 October 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr K. Keller.

The working party took note of the Note for guidance on quality of herbal medicinal products (CPMP/QWP/2819/00) and of the Note for guidance on "Specifications: test procedures and acceptance criteria for herbal drugs, herbal drug preparations and herbal medicinal products" (CPMP/QWP/2820/00) finalised by the CPMP QWP on 4-6 October 2000 on the basis of proposals prepared by the HMPWP. Both documents will be forwarded to CPMP in November 2000 for release for consultation.

After hearing a report on the discussions held at the Management Board meeting on 23 October 2000, the working party reflected on its possible involvement in the preparation of the future regulatory framework for herbal and traditional medicines, announced by the European Commission as part of the 2001 Review of the European authorisation system.

The working party finalised its "Position Paper on the risks associated with the use of herbal medicinal products containing *Aristolochia* species", which aims to alert Member States to "take appropriate action to ensure that the public are protected from exposure to *Aristolochia* species, including exposure due to confusion between herbal ingredients" (see EMEA/HMPWP/23/00)

The working party held a public hearing on 30 October 2000 with representatives from European Industry Associations (AESGP, EFPIA, EHPM, Europam), Scientific Societies (ESCOP, GA) and Health Professional and Consumer Organisations (EHPA, PGEU, EFNMU)*. At the meeting they had the opportunity to present their views on priority topics for the 2001-2003 work programme of the working party and make proposals for improved transparency in the communication from the working party to the public on herbal related matters.

The working party agreed on the following meeting dates for 2001: 13-14 March, 5-6 July and 29-30 October 2001.

Contact for further information:

Pharm. Noël Wathion
Tel. (44-171) 418 8592
Fax (44-171) 418 8668

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AESGP (European Proprietary Medicines Manufacturers' Association), EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations), 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), EHPA (European Herbal Practitioners Association), PGEU (Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union), EFNMU (European Federation of Natural Medicine Users).

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London, E14 4HB, UK

Tel. (44-20) 74 18 84 00 Fax (44-20) 74 18 86 68

E-mail: mail@emea.eudra.org <http://www.emea.eu.int/>

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