London, 21 August 2007
Doc. Ref. EMEA/386242/2007

Contract 2006/118-594

Multi-beneficiary programme on participation of Croatia and Turkey in certain Community Agencies in 2006 and 2007

Third Progress Report

to the

European Commission

April 2007 - August 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This third progress report has been prepared in accordance with the standard terms and conditions applicable to the contract between the EMEA and the European Commission, reference 2006/118-594 and summarises activities performed under the terms of the contract from April to August 2007.

A contract of €700,000 was signed on 24 April 2006 between the Commission and the EMEA to be expended over 2006 and 2007. These funds assisted the National Competent Authorities in Croatia and Turkey in maintaining the alignment of their standards and practices with those obtained in the European Union in respect of the implementation of Community law.

This programme was initiated in July 2006 and activities already started immediately after the first meetings organised in both countries, followed by an information meeting held at the EMEA premises on 29 September 2006. The conference involved representatives of National Competent Authorities from Croatia and Turkey who deal with the regulation of medicinal products for both human and veterinary use.

A first progress report describing the aim and the objectives of the project, as well as the activities supported under the contract, in order to fulfil the objectives, was published in December 2006. A second report illustrated the activities performed during the following five-month period, which consisted mainly of the participation of representatives from Croatia and Turkey in EMEA meetings and training as observers.
This third report covers the period from April to August 2007. It outlines the programme from a project management perspective and describes the work performed during the third phase of the project. It focuses on the conference organised in Split, Croatia on 2-3 April 2007, which is described in details.

2. INTRODUCTION

This report describes the activities initiated under the contract and the ways in which the programme's objectives have been addressed.

The project is designed to establish an internationally open dialogue in the area of medicinal products and working mechanisms, to facilitate the adoption of common technical requirements, to identify areas where additional action may be required for the smooth transposition of their legislation into the EU *Acquis Communautaire* and participation in the EMEA activities.

The aim of this project is to make contacts and build relationships between the EMEA and Croatia/Turkey for future collaboration in the EMEA's activities and its relationships with Member States.

The objectives can be summarised as follows:

- to make contacts with candidate countries to gain a better understanding of the role of the EMEA as a mediator between the Member States and the European Commission
- to inform Turkey's and Croatia's National Competent Authorities about scientific and procedural developments linked to the work of the EMEA and the participation of these countries in this work
- to assist the National Competent Authorities of Croatia and Turkey to participate in training initiatives undertaken
- to provide other training or assistance, as required, supporting Turkey's and Croatia's alignment of the standards and practices with those established in the European Union in the implementation of Community law.

In order to fulfil the objectives, the following activities were agreed to be carried out within the scope of this project:

- Participation, as observers, of Croatia's and Turkey's representatives in scientific and technical EMEA meetings, held at the EMEA premises in London.
- Provision of focused training on specific technical topics. This activity would involve participation of National Competent Authorities' experts in meetings and training sessions organised in London and in other Member States. Furthermore, Croatian and Turkish participants might also be invited to other meetings, which could be held in other parts of Europe as far as the subjects were considered relevant for achieving the project's objectives.
- Organisation of conferences in Split and Istanbul, in order to give an overview of EU legislation governing the regulation of medicinal products, to provide feedback on the practical application of the Acquis Communautaire and legal aspects of its implementation, to identify the differences between existing legislation in each of these countries and to discuss issues that may be encountered with regards to moving towards accession, and in anticipation of membership of the European Union.

  These conferences target scientific audiences and include specific activities with a view to informing the full cross-section of stakeholders in Croatia and Turkey.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The programme was launched in July 2006 by establishing contacts with the National Competent Authorities dealing with medicinal products for human and veterinary use in both Candidate Countries.

3.1 Summary of Initiation phase

After intensive communication with the appropriate National Competent Authorities in both Candidate Countries, visits were organised to promote collaboration and networking.
A project kick-off meeting was then organised in London, on 29 September 2006, in order to address the activities supported under the programme. These activities are described in the First progress report.

3.2 Participation in meetings as observers

Nominated representatives of the Candidate Countries were appointed as observers in non-product related meetings exclusively. The participation of observers from Croatia and Turkey in these meetings is financed through the project.
The purpose of this initiative is to enable the Croatian and Turkish Competent Authorities to maintain the accuracy of their knowledge through direct involvement, as observers, in the EU regulatory community for pharmaceuticals.

Since August 2006, letters requesting nominations of representatives and alternates to attend listed non-product related meetings have been sent to the Heads of National Competent Authorities on a bi-annual period basis. The provision of a declaration of interests and a signed confidentiality agreement is requested for each representative prior to meeting participation, in accordance with European law.

This activity is welcomed by both Candidate Countries and nominations had to be streamlined in order to avoid inviting a higher number of observers per meeting compared to the number of active participants. The representatives' meeting attendances during these five months of activities are summarised in Appendix A.

It should be noted that the expenditure for this activity has reached its upper limit due to the number of meetings that representatives are allowed to attend as observers.

3.3 Training

Representatives of Croatia and Turkey have been invited to participate in trainings organised at the EMEA, e.g. for assessors on specific scientific topics, on aspects of the regulatory procedures, on Telematics issues, as well as on Quality Review of Documents. The provision of trainings on specific technical topics is scheduled for 2007.

In addition, participation of representatives in trainings organised in other Member States by external associations, e.g. Drug Information Association DIA, has been supported under the scope of the project, upon request.

3.4 Conferences

As part of the programme, a conference was organised in Split (Croatia) on 2-3 April 2007. Another conference is going to be organised in Istanbul (Turkey) on 22-23 October 2007.

These conferences are organised in order to allow the participation of representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and other interested parties. Focus in this respect is given to making contacts, to developing a profound understanding of the work of the EMEA as well as to explaining the role of and cooperation between the EMEA, the Member States and the European Commission.

The objectives of these conferences can be summarised as follows:

- To give an overview of EU legislation governing the regulation of medicinal products
- To provide feedback on the practical application of the Acquis Communautaire and legal aspects of its implementation
- To explain the role of the EU guidelines to Candidate Country regulators, and discuss specific areas in their application
- To identify the differences between their current and the EU legislation
- To discuss obstacles that may be encountered with regards to moving towards accession, and in anticipation of membership of the European Union.

These conferences target scientific audiences and include specific activities with a view to informing the full cross-section of stakeholders in Croatia and Turkey.

Conference on "Pharmaceuticals' Regulation – Croatia's Road to EU Membership" - 2-3 April, Split, Croatia

The aim of the conference was to establish a dialogue between the parties involved and to encourage co-operation prior to accession.
The objective of the Conference was to stimulate the discussion of issues relevant to the enlargement of the European Union and to contribute to informing the Candidate Country stakeholders of their obligations pre- and post- accession.

Organisation

Split was chosen to host the conference according to the presence of the Pharmaceutical industry in the area. The preferred date was in April, avoiding the high season in Croatia in order to minimise the cost and taking into account the dates of the Committee meetings organised at the EMEA as well as the dates of other major meetings or events, thus allowing full participation and involvement of EMEA staff and the availability of the Executive Director and EMEA senior management.
Four Steering Committee meetings were held on 13 November and 4 December 2006, 12 January and 9 February 2007 with the participation of the Heads of Croatian National Competent Authorities dealing with medicinal products for human and veterinary use, EMEA Heads of Unit and Heads of Sectors or their representatives. During those meetings, discussions were held on:

- Logistics preparation: conference venue and date, interpretation, support, flights and accommodation bookings, administration, management
- Aim of the conference and conference title
- Establishment of the programme: format, session, panel discussion
- Invitation Strategy: Invited Speakers, Panellists, Invited Participants
- Presentation Format
- External participants' fees
- Publication Strategy: Announcement, Programme publication, Printing, Press coverage
- Format of conference report.

The following conference rationales were agreed:

- To organise a two day conference with three break-out sessions in the afternoon of the second day to allow the organisers to include all topics that need to be discussed, particularly for Veterinary medicines-specific issues.
- To tailor the programme to the requirements of the Croatian National Competent Authorities and to include relevant topics proposed by the Croatians.
- To propose speakers on relevant topics for presentations of 15 to 20 minutes allowing discussions and flexibility regarding timings in respect of different topics
- To invite 150 Croatian delegates and to cover their accommodation and conference package expenses for two days
- To invite 20 representatives from the Turkish National Competent Authorities and to reimburse their expenses
- To invite the Pharmaceutical Society and the Chambers in Croatia responsible for human and veterinary medicines, representatives from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Enlargement), Pharmaceutical Industry, Consumer groups, the Croatian National Competent Authorities, the Croatian Ministries, existing EU Member States and the EMEA as well as representatives from the Turkish and Croatian National Competent Authorities
- To request a fee of € 300 for external participants, e.g. Industry and Consumer group attendees to cover the costs of lunches, coffee breaks, documentation, conference material and conference room rental
- To provide interpretation in Croatian for all Sessions held on Monday 2nd of April, as well as, for all Vet Sessions held either on Monday 2nd of April or on Tuesday 3rd of April, in both directions by interpreters who have the appropriate knowledge with regards to technical terms
- To invite the Mayor of Split, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture to give a key note address
- To inform journalists about the conference
- To publish an interview of Mr. Lönngren in the Croatian Pharmaceutical Gazette
- To provide a conclusion report in both English and Croatian
- To include the presentations given at the conference on the Enlargement webpage and on CD-ROMS to be sent out to participants.

After agreement on both scientific and logistics aspects, the conference manager coordinated all organisational aspects for a smooth running of the conference preparation. The organisation of the conference required two full time staff members.
A dedicated conference website was designed on the EMEA website http://www.emea.europa.eu/euenlargement.htm, including all necessary information about the conference, abstracts and presentations.

Pharmaceuticals' Regulation
Croatia's Road to EU Membership

2-3 April 2007

Le Méridien Hotel, Split, Croatia

The Conference, organised by the EMEA, is funded by
the Multi-beneficiary programme for supporting participation of Croatia and Turkey in EMEA activities,
the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the Republic of Croatia Agency for Medicinal Products and Medicinal Devices
the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management and the Croatian Veterinary Institute

2 April 2007	**Topics**	**Speakers**
09.30 – 10.00	**WELCOME ADDRESS**	
09.30		Thomas Lönngren EMEA
09.40		Sinisa Tomić, Croatian Agency for Medicinal Products and Medical Devices, Croatia
09.50		Mate Brstilo, Croatian Veterinary Institute, Croatia
10.00 – 10.50	**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**	
10.00	• Croatian Authorities	Zvonimir Puljić, Mayor of Split
10.05		Neven Ljubičić, Minister of Health and Social Welfare
		Petar Cobanković, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
10.30	• European Commission	Friederike Wünschmann, EC Delegation in Croatia
10.50 – 11.15	*Coffee break*	
11.15 – 12.30	**PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES**	
11.20	• Croatian Agency views	Sinisa Tomić, ALMP, Croatia
11.35	• Croatian Vet Institute views	Mate Brstilo, MPS, Croatia
11.50	• EU perspectives and Challenges	Dagmar Stará, State Institute for Drug Control, Slovakia
12.05	• Road map	
12.30 – 14.00	*Lunch*	

2 April 2007	Topics	Speakers
14.00 – 16.00 14.05 14.25 14.40 15.00 15.30	**ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE – PERSPECTIVES FOR REGULATORS** • Centralised Procedure and Referrals • Phasing in – Mutual Recognition Procedure ➢ Procedures and statistics ➢ Veterinary specificities • Experience of a New Member State ➢ Compliance of products already on the market with EU Marketing Authorisation ➢ CADREAC procedures, Dossiers update Panel Discussion	Chair Noel Wathion, EMEA Co-chair Gérard Moulin, Chairman of the CVMP, French Agency for Food Safety, France Bruno Flamion, Chairman of Scientific Advice Working Party, Ministry of Public Health Medicines Commission, Belgium Truus Janse-de Hoog, Medicines Evaluation Board, The Netherlands Esther Werner, Paul-Ehrlich-Institute, Germany Dagmar Stará, State Institute for Drug Control, Slovakia
16.00 – 16.30	*Coffee break*	
16.30 – 18.30 16.35 17.30 17.45 18.00	**ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE – CHALLENGES FOR INDUSTRY** • Effect of a single market and availability of medicines • Effect of a single market and availability of veterinary medicines • Challenges for veterinary generics Panel discussion	Chair Jane Shott, Chair Regulatory Affairs Committee EFPIA, P&G Pharmaceuticals Co-chair Declan O'Brien, IFAH-Europe, Belgium Jane Shott Chair Regulatory Affairs Committee EFPIA, P&G Pharmaceuticals Hubertus Cranz, AESGP, Belgium Greg Perry, EGA, Belgium Christian Van Beek, IFAH-Europe / Intervet, Belgium Rob Joosten, EGGVP, Belgium
19.00 – 20.00	Welcome reception	Thomas Lönngren (EMEA) Croatian Authorities
20.00 – 22.00	**Conference Dinner**	

3 April 2006	Topics	Speakers
09.00 – 10.30	**PHARMACOVIGILANCE**	Chair Noel Wathion, EMEA Co-chair Igor Francetić (Croatian Society of Clinical Pharmacology, Croatia)
09.05	• Outline of the EU Pharmacovigilance system	Noel Wathion, EMEA
09.20	• EudraVigilance and Risk Management within the EU Pharmacovigilance system	Sabine Brosch, EMEA
09.35	• EU Veterinary Pharmacovigilance specific issues	Kornelia Grein, EMEA
09.50	• Pharmacovigilance system in Croatia	Viola Macolić Sarinić, ALMP, Croatia
10.05	Panel discussion	
10.30 – 11.00	*Coffee break*	
11.00 – 12.30	*Breakout sessions*	
11.00 – 12.30	**SESSION I:ACCESS TO MEDICINES I**	Chair Dinko Vitezić, ALMP, Croatia Co-chair Agnès Saint Raymond, EMEA
11.05	• Bio-similars: Centralised Procedure and EMEA specific guidelines	Peter Richardson, EMEA
11.20	• Orphan Drugs	Birthe Byskov Holm, COMP, Denmark
11.40	• Paediatrics	Agnès Saint Raymond, EMEA
12.00	Panel discussion	
11.00 – 12.30	**SESSION II: VETERINARY TOPICS**	Chair Jill Ashley-Smith, EMEA Co-chair Mate Brstilo, CVI, Croatia
11.05	• MRLs	Gérard Moulin, Chairman CVMP, French Agency for Food Safety, France
11.20	• Safety of veterinary medicines ➢ Environmental risk assessment ➢ User safety ➢ Antimicrobial resistance	Kornelia Grein, EMEA
11.35	• Efficacy of veterinary pharmaceuticals	Barbara Cyrus, EMEA
11.50	• Immunologicals	Tibor Soós, Central Agricultural Office, Directorate of Veterinary Medicinal Products, Hungary
12.00	Panel discussion	
12.30 – 14.00	*Lunch*	

14.00 – 15.30	*Breakout sessions*	
14.00 – 15.30 14.05 14.25 14.45	**SESSION III: EU TELEMATICS** • EU Telematics programme – Strategy and implementation • Impact on a Member State National Competent Authority • Industry involvement and impact of EU Telematics environment	Chair Hans-Georg Wagner, EMEA Hans-Georg Wagner, EMEA Victor Mendonça, Infarmed, Portugal Andrew Marr, EFPIA
14.00 – 15.30 14.05 14.15 14.30 14.45 15.00	**SESSION IV: ACCESS TO MEDICINES II** • MRP and DCP • Handling of product information & linguistic aspects in the centralised procedure • Parallel trade ➢ Parallel distribution ➢ Parallel import Panel discussion	Chair Christa Wirthumer-Hoche,AGES PharmMed, Austria Co-chair Laila Stefanini Oresić, ALMP, Croatia Christa Wirthumer-Hoche, AGES PharmMed, Austria Alexios Skarlatos, EMEA Luc Van Santvliet, EMEA Katarzyna Zaucha, Main Pharmaceutical Directorate, Poland
14.00 – 15.30 14.05 14.20 14.30 14.45	**SESSION V: AVAILABILITY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES** • The Task Force • The application of the cascade and use of human medicines • Labelling and Packaging • Experience of a recent Member State	Chair Gabriel Beechinor, Irish Medicines Board, Ireland Co-chair Vesna Kubicek Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Croatia Gabriel Beechinor, Irish Medicines Board, Ireland Zlatko Tus Croatian Vet Practitioner Jill Ashley-Smith, EMEA Laimis Jodkonis, Lithuanian State Inspection of Veterinary preparations, Lithuania
15.30 – 16.00	*Coffee break*	
16.00 - 18.00 16.05 16.45 17.15 17.30 Panel discussion	**GXPS INSPECTIONS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES** • GMP inspection system ➢ Product defects • Role of the qualified person • GCP, GLP and Pharmacovigilance inspections • Anti-counterfeit initiatives	Chair Katrin Nodop, EMEA Katrin Nodop, EMEA Tor Gråberg, Medical Products Agency, Sweden Andrew Gray, MHRA, UK Dietrich Schnädelbach, BfArM, Germany
18.00 – 18.15	**Close of Conference** Summary conclusions	Hans-Georg Wagner, EMEA Sinisa Tomić, ALMP, Croatia Mate Brstilo, CVI, Croatia

Outcome of the conference

The conference was a great success in terms of participation and content relevance. The extensive overview of the EU legislation governing the regulation of medicinal products and the description of the practical application of the Acquis Communautaire and legal aspects of its implementation were welcomed by the participants.
The Participation to the conference had to be limited to 350 participants according to the conference room capacity. Therefore, the attendance from Pharmaceutical Industry was limited to 168 participants bringing the number of participants to 346.

Publications post-conference

All presentations are published on the EMEA website http://www.emea.europa.eu/euenlargement.htm
Session summary reports are included under the title of the different sessions with all related presentations.
A summary report was also published in the Croatian Pharmaceutical Gazette.

Conference assessment

Evaluation forms were distributed during the conference to all participants and feedback requested on a regular basis. Only 35% of the questionnaires were filled in and no particular or negative comments were reported. The conference was well appreciated indeed.

Conference on "Human and Veterinary Medicinal Products' Regulation – Turkey's Road to EU Membership" on 22-23 October, Istanbul, Turkey

A similar conference will be organised in Istanbul. The location was chosen to allow the participation of the Pharmaceutical Industry mainly based in Istanbul. The date of this conference was determined taking into account the dates of religious events, the dates of the Committee meetings organised at the EMEA, the dates of any other major meetings or events, thus allowing full participation and involvement of EMEA staff required and the availability of the Executive Director and EMEA senior management.

Negotiations for the organisation of the conference in Istanbul on 22-23 October 2007 were initiated in October 2006, in order to find a suitable venue. Ten hotels were visited and several facilities to host the conference investigated. According to the budget allocated for this event and to the chosen dates taking into account all parameters mentioned above and hotel availability, the Barceló Eresin Topkapi Hotel was the best location, cost versus quality, to host the conference. A contract agreement was signed in August with the Barceló Eresin Topkapi Hotel and with the nearby Holiday Inn hotel to increase the room capacity as the number of rooms available during this event is limited due to prior hotel commitments.

For organising this conference, two Steering Committee meetings were held in London on 16 April and 4 June 2007 with the participation of the General Director of Pharmaceuticals and Pharmacy, the Ministry of Health and a nominated project coordinator, as well as a representative from the General Director of Protection and Control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.
During those meetings, discussions were held on:

- Logistics preparation: Conference venue and date, interpretation, support, flights and accommodation bookings, administration, management
- Aim of the Conference and Conference title
- Establishment of the programme: format, session, panel discussion
- Invitation Strategy: Invited Speakers, Panellists, Invited Participants
- Presentation Format
- External participants' fees

- Publication Strategy: Announcement, Programme publication, Printing, Press coverage
- Format of Conference report.

A third Steering Committee meeting was held in Ankara on 26 June, where all remaining questions were answered and agreed. Both General Directors of Pharmaceutical and Pharmacy (Ministry of Health) and of Protection and Control (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affaires) attended the meeting as well as representatives from their respective departments.
During this meeting, an amendment of the conference budget was requested and agreed. 130 Turkish delegates (80 from the Ministry of Health and 50 from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs) will be invited instead of 100, as originally planned for budgetary reasons. It was also agreed to pay only 2 nights' accommodation (21-22 October 2007) and 2 days delegate package (22-23 October 2007) per participant, with no additional reimbursement, e.g. travel (kindly supported by the Turkish Authorities) and daily allowance.
The Turkish Authorities confirmed their financial support for the social dinner on 22 October 2007.

In summary, the following conference rationales were agreed:
- To organise a two days conference with six break-out sessions in the afternoon of the second day including all topics that need to be discussed
- To tailor the programme to the requirements of the Turkey National Competent Authorities and to include relevant topics proposed
- To suggest speakers on relevant topics for presentations of 15 to 20 minutes allowing discussions and flexibility regarding timings in respect of different topics
- To invite the Mayor of Istanbul, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Agriculture to give a key note address
- To invite the Pharmaceutical Industry Associations and Research based associations dealing with human and veterinary medicines, representatives from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Enlargement), Pharmaceutical Industry, Consumer groups, the Turkish Ministries, the Turkish National Competent Authorities, existing EU Member States and the EMEA, representatives from the Croatian National Competent Authorities, under the Multi-beneficiary programme budget
- To request a fee of € 420 for external participants, e.g. Industry and Consumer group attendees to cover the cost of lunches and coffee breaks, documentation, conference material and other conference costs
- To provide interpretation in Turkish and English
- To include the presentations, given at the conference, on the Enlargement webpage and on CD-ROMS to be sent out to participants
- To inform journalists, radio and TV about the conference.

The Turkish Authorities confirmed their financial support for the transport from Ankara to Istanbul and music entertainment during the social dinner on 22 October 2007.

3.5 Financial implications

A total of € 183,456.28 was spent during the activity period - mainly for the organisation of the conference in Split € 101,128.09 plus € 16,485.84 for the EMEA speakers making the presentations, the participation of representatives from both counties in meetings and trainings for an amount of € 51,592.77, including € 31,241.17 for interim support to the project.

4. CONCLUSION

Expected results

The expected outcomes of this project are:

- better co-operation between the regulators of the European pharmaceutical market on a wider international basis
- the Candidate Countries' National Competent Authorities being prepared to implement the requirements of the Acquis Communautaire, in specific identified areas
- the involvement of as many European regulatory authorities as possible contributing to homogeneous, reliable, and harmonised regulatory practices
- greater mutual confidence encouraging the future acceptance of research and development data, regulatory decisions and measures between these authorities
- greater understanding between these regulatory authorities, leading to agreement on regulatory positions and technical procedures within an expanded Europe
- integration, to the extent permissible prior to accession, of the two Candidate Countries' National Competent Authorities into the EU Telematics projects and systems.

The results of this project will be mainly issued through activities progress reports published on the EMEA website.

The programme has also sought to provide practical assistance to the National Competent Authorities in order to render the transition to membership of the EU as smooth as possible.