

Press Release

Meeting of the Heads of Regulatory Authorities

23 November 1998 - Vienna¹.

1. The Heads of Regulatory Authorities met on 23 November 1998 in Vienna for the third and final meeting of the group under the Austrian Presidency. For the first time, representatives from Norway and Iceland attended the meeting, together with a representative from the group of the Central and Eastern European Countries (CADREAC).

2. The Heads of Agencies discussed procedures for urgent regulatory action on safety grounds. This is an important public health issue, which, the group understood, was being taken forward by the Commission.

3. The group discussed proposals on how to improve further the management and functioning of the group, which would be carried forward in the German Presidency (during the first 6 months of 1999) and to the Finnish Presidency (during the second half of 1999).

4. The Heads of Agencies meeting was attended by a member of the European Commission to consider issues of information technology. The Commission representative addressed EudraNet and the Eudra-applications, which have an important role in supporting the Community system of medicinal regulation.

5. The Group also received a report from the Chairperson of the Mutual Recognition Facilitation group, noting that work was ongoing on a number of Standard Operating Procedures aimed at further improving the operation of the procedure.

6. The next meeting of the group will take place in Paris on 29 January 1999.

23 November 1998

Note: The Heads of Agencies

Web-site is at: <http://heads.medagencies.org>