

Press Release

Meeting of the Heads of Agencies 25 - 26 November 1999 - Kuusamo, Finland

On the occasion of their second meeting under the Finnish Presidency, the Heads of Regulatory Authorities met on 25 - 26 November in Kuusamo. Nine Member States were present at the meeting. Present were also the Executive Director of the EMEA and observers from Norway and Hungary, the latter as a representative from the CADREAC.

The Heads of Agencies adopted the status report of the latest MRFG-meetings. Discussions concerning arbitration will be continued. The Group also acknowledged that some progress in relation to the monitoring of the withdrawals in the mutual recognition procedure has been made. The Heads will continue to monitor the reasons for withdrawals in the future. The Group also acknowledged the formal and general conditions of the participation of CADREAC competent authorities in MRFG-meetings as regular observers and thus came closer to the final solution in this issue.

Information Technology concerning the proposal of the management structure and immediate priorities was discussed in detail. The Group supports the continuity of Eudranet services and concentrates in the fore coming meeting of IT-issues at the Commission on 9 November.

Communication between Member States' Competent Authorities and the EMEA was widely discussed and improvement proposals concerning the communication links between authorities, list of contact persons and crisis management were acknowledged. The Group also supports the piloting of video-conferencing.

The Portuguese delegation presented their meetings under the coming presidency.

The next meeting of the Heads of Agencies will take place in Lisbon on 14-15 February 2000.

Notes: For further information, please contact the Chairman of the meeting, Hannes Wahlroos, Director General, National Agency for Medicines, Finland
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The Heads of Agencies web-site is at: <http://heads.medagencies.org>