



Athens, March 3, 2003

HoA meeting, 26 February 2003

Press release

A meeting of Heads of Agencies took place on 26 February 2003 in Athens under the Greek Presidency. Representatives of thirteen Member States, the European Commission and EMEA attended the meeting. Observers from EEA (Norway and Iceland) and candidate countries (Czech Republic and Hungary) were also present.

HoA emphasized once more the need for strengthening and co-ordination of pharmacovigilance at both European and national level.

The working group on establishing a European Risk Management Strategy presented an important relevant paper which has been adopted for publication on the HoA website. This paper outlines the rationale and justification for a European Strategy which would be capable of achieving high standards of public health protection for all medicines, regardless of route of authorisation, and which would further develop the collaborative approach, recognizing that all Competent Authorities have an important role to play.

The Chair of the MRFG gave an overview of the progress in the activities of the Mutual Recognition Facilitation Group including recent statistics and an overview of new and updated MRFG documents.

In the context of the joint CPMP/MRFG working group on harmonization of SPCs, HoA have been informed about the triggering of two new referrals and the prioritizing of four more products.

HoA welcomed the co-operation of the group with EMACOLEX to discuss legislative issues concerning the harmonization of SPCs.

The next HoA meeting will be held on 28th May 2003 in Athens.