

Press Release

Meeting of the Heads of Regulatory Authorities 29 January 1999 – Paris

Under the German Presidency in the first six months of 1999 the first meeting of the Heads of Regulatory Authorities including the Executive Director of the EMEA was held on 29 January 1999. It took place in Paris. The Heads of Agencies had the opportunity to get a brief outline of the Agence Francaise de Securite Sanitaire des Produits de Sante (AFSSAPS), the new French agency, which will take the place of the Agence du Medicament inter alia. Observers from Norway and Hungary, as well as a representative from CADREC (the group of the Central and Eastern European Countries), attended the meeting.

The Chairperson of the Mutual Recognition Facilitation group (MRFG) reported to the Heads of Agencies about current discussions on certain procedures. Because of increasing tasks and responsibilities of the MRFG an urgent need for general support of the group – personnel as well instrumental – was recognizable. EMEA and Heads of Agencies agreed on support for mutual recognition within the possibilities provided by EMEA in London.

The Heads further considered and discussed issues of information technology including product index and electronic submission, instruments of certain importance in medicinal regulation. The next meeting in Berlin will especially address common IT problems.

Public acceptance and positive experiences with the Heads of Agencies web-site were talked about. The member states have just tested a product index on this web-site.

The next meeting of the group will take place in Berlin on 7 and 8 March 1999.

29 January 1999