

## **Press Release**

### **Meeting of the Heads of Agencies 5 - 6 October 1999 - Helsinki**

On the occasion of their first meeting under Finnish Presidency the Heads of Regulatory Authorities met on 5 - 6 October in Helsinki. Twelve member states were present at the meeting. The Executive Director of the EMEA and the representative of the European Commission, DG III took also part. Present were also observers from Norway, Iceland and Hungary, the latter as a representative from the CADREAC.

The Heads of Agencies adopted the status report of the latest MRFG-meetings with pleasure. The increase of number in applications was found favourable. The Heads of Agencies endorsed with great majority the proposal from the MRFG concerning the operation in the repeat use of Mutual Recognition Procedures. The Group also acknowledged the general participation of CADREAC competent authorities in MRFG-meetings as regular observers on condition that the confidentiality - where appropriate - will be maintained.

Information Technology with the on going projects and the Management of IT-issues was discussed in detail on the basis of the Commission Proposal. The Heads in principle are satisfied that the new Commission proposal will facilitate more consideration of the users' requirements. The Heads support the proposal and decided to give constructive comments and amendments to the Commission.

The general situation of the PERF-project was presented. The PERF Conference will be held on 2-4 February 2000 in Budapest in order to publicise the activities and direction of the Pan European Regulatory Forum on Pharmaceuticals. The Heads support the project.

The Portuguese delegation presented their first plans for meetings under the coming presidency.

The next meeting of the Heads of Agencies will take place in Kuusamo, Finland on 25-27 November 1999.

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>