



Athens, March 6, 2003

HEVRA meeting, 25 February 2003

Press release

The 17th meeting of Heads of European Veterinary Regulatory Authorities took place on 25th February 2003 in Athens under the Greek Presidency. Representatives from 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.

Issues on vigilance were discussed, concerning the improvement of pharmacovigilance in the veterinary area (education program for veterinary students and surgeons; priorities for promoting veterinary pharmacovigilance). The need for enhancing pharmacovigilance was recognised.

An update of the activities of the Veterinary Mutual Recognition Facilitation Group for the period December 2002 – February 2003 was presented by the Chair of the VMRFG. HEVRA was also informed on the decision of the group to amend its meeting days from June 2003 onwards to Thursday afternoon/ Friday of the same week (D77/78), due to the increasing workload.

A fruitful discussion on the Community approach for harmonized safety warnings regarding veterinary medicines in the EU took place. This subject is expected to be discussed further at the next joint HoA/HEVRA meeting in May 2003.

HEVRA welcomed the proposal for improving the current HEVRA website (new structure, design and the introduction of new items) in view of the EU enlargement. The proposal will be discussed again in the next HEVRA meeting in May 2003.

The next HEVRA meeting will be held in Athens on 27th May 2003.