

HEVRA/03/01

Meeting of the Heads of European Veterinary Regulatory Authorities, 20 March 2001

The 10th meeting of the Heads of European Veterinary Regulatory Authorities (HEVRA) took place in Uppsala, on the 20th March 2001. It was the first HEVRA meeting under the Swedish Presidency and representatives of thirteen Member States of the European Union, the EMEA, the European Commission and observers from Iceland and Norway were present.

An update of activities of the Veterinary Mutual Recognition Facilitation Group (VMRFG) was made. The results of the monitoring programme on withdrawals within the mutual recognition system were presented. The HEVRA decided to publish the statistics on the HEVRA web site with short explanations and proposed actions. The group also decided that the monitoring of withdrawals should continue in order to improve the MR-system and that a new report be presented at the HEVRA meeting in June.

HEVRA expressed its support for the document on future telematic activities where concrete needs for future development, Member State contribution and the establishment of an intelligent network were specified. HEVRA looks forward to the forthcoming telematic strategy meeting to be held under the Swedish Presidency at EMEA in London on 20 April 2001, which will be attended by participants from Member States, Commission, EMEA and industry.

HEVRA endorsed a Joint Audit Programme for GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) inspections with a view to evaluate their inspection systems, with the mission, wherever necessary, to implement corrective actions likely to guarantee the quality equivalence of these systems throughout all Member States. The programme includes audits, training and supervision of the programme.

The group also discussed TSE-compliance and how to handle the current situation. HEVRA gave the chairman of VMRFG the task to adjust and distribute a proposal for regulatory action for later endorsement by HEVRA within the next weeks.

The proposal to have a partly joint meeting with Heads of Agencies was favourably received and the proposal will be carried out during the Belgian presidency and be evaluated at a later stage.

The chairman of HEVRA will contact the CAVDRI (Collaboration Agreement between Veterinary Drug Regulation Institutions in the European Union Associated Countries) in order to invite them to send an observer to the next HEVRA meeting.

The representative from the EMEA presented the work plan for EMEA for the year 2001, which had recently been adopted by the Agency's Management Board and highlighted the priorities for the Veterinary Unit/CVMP.

Interest was given to the question of fluoroquinolon resistance in a veterinary perspective by help of the invited experts professor Ragnar Norrby, Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control, and associate professor Anders Franklin, Swedish National Veterinary Institute.

The next meeting will be held in Stockholm, on 8th June 2001.