

**National Organisation
For Medicines**



HEVRA meeting, 27 May 2003

Press release

The 18th meeting of Heads of European Veterinary Regulatory Authorities took place on 27th May 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 candidate countries (Czech Republic) were also present.

An update of the activities of the Veterinary Mutual Recognition Facilitation Group for the period March 2003 – May 2003 was presented by the Chair of the VMRFG. HEVRA was also informed that the Candidate Countries have been invited in the VMRFG as observers and they joined the group since May. The chair of VMFRG presented the reasons for withdrawals for 2002. It was agreed to further investigate this issue and to be presented at the next HEVRA meeting.

The importance of training for veterinary assessors was discussed. EMEA initiatives on this training programme were welcomed by HEVRA. VMRFG was asked to contribute to the identification of priorities.

Pharmacovigilance issues were discussed, including a general approach with actions both at national and European level. The importance of the involvement of veterinary schools in Europe was highlighted. A paper entitled “educational programme for veterinary pharmacovigilance” was presented. This paper will be available on HEVRA website shortly. The participants welcomed the initiatives being undertaken by the CVMP and its Pharmacovigilance Working Party to further promote veterinary pharmacovigilance in the EU.

A proposal for a European Surveillance Strategy (ESS) for veterinary medicinal products was presented. This item is expected to be discussed further at the next HEVRA meeting.

HEVRA welcomed the EMEA’s concept paper for development of new guidelines at CVMP level for veterinary medicinal products.

The next HEVRA meeting will take place in Rome on 26-28 November 2003 under the Italian Presidency.