

FRENCH AGENCY
FOR FOOD SAFETY

NATIONAL AGENCY FOR
VETERINARY MEDICINAL
PRODUCTS

Press release

**9th MEETING OF THE HEADS OF EUROPEAN VETERINARY
REGULATORY AGENCIES**

The 9th meeting of the heads of European veterinary regulatory agencies (HEVRA) was held in Marne La Vallée - France on 4 October 2000, under the French presidency.

HEVRA discussed in depth the E.U. mutual recognition procedure and appreciated the significant progress achieved in its management and the high percentage of applicants pleased with their experience in this domain. HEVRA has nevertheless identified the remaining weaknesses of this system in order to further improve the efficiency of this procedure. It thought appropriate that member states have more exchanges. It agreed on the need for a technical co-operation with the relevant CVMP (Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products) working parties in order to improve the harmonisation of scientific assessment and for training assessors at the E.U. level. Having recognised the determinant impact of the veterinary mutual recognition facilitation group (VMRFG) on the improved efficiency of this procedure, HEVRA thought appropriate to strengthen this group by giving it an official status in the E.U. veterinary pharmaceutical regulation.

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HEVRA expressed its concern regarding the little progress made in the area of the availability of veterinary medicinal products. In the same way, it was also worried by the current lack of information regarding the appropriate way of implementing the E.U. regulation n° 2377/90 on the establishment of MRLs.

HEVRA confirmed its great interest in participating in the information technology management structures, such as the telematic steering committee and the telematic management committee. HEVRA will be represented in the first one by the Troika (Portugal, France, Sweden) and one expert (G. Moulin - France) and in the second one by the VRMFG chair and one expert (H. Olliver - U.K.).

HEVRA appreciated the significant progress achieved in the development of the HEVRA Web site¹ and the VMRI² (index of the veterinary medicinal products which have received a marketing authorisation as part of the mutual recognition procedure). Additional efforts will be made to include all the existing summaries of product characteristics and, progressively, their translation in all the E.U. national languages.

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