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Press Release

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European Union boycotts Homeopathy

Inappropriate EU-legislation on homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products results in about 100.000 pending dossiers in the EU

More than 110 million European citizens use homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products. In addition this sector has benefited from growing demand of doctors and the public in the majority of European countries over the past years. But the branch is not expanding: Due to the inappropriate legislation, Directive 2001/83 which is currently under revision, many homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products within the European Union will soon disappear.

Although most borders within the European Union do not exist any more, the “internal market” is still a dream for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products. Someone who travels for instance from Great Britain to France and asks for the same homeopathic medicinal product in both countries will not be successful, because the rules for these products differ in each country. Many people cross borders between The Netherlands and Germany in order to buy homeopathic or anthroposophic medicinal products, which they cannot obtain within their own country. This is not an ideal situation for consumers, doctors or manufacturers.

Health authorities must protect public health, but they should also meet the expectations of the population regarding complementary integrated medicine. In other words they ought to provide the legal framework for high-quality, effective and safe homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products.



The majority of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products is in danger, once the new legislation of the European Union Directives comes into force. Already between 1993 and 1995, after the partial implementation of the first homeopathic Directive, it was obvious that this first legislation was not at all practicable in the Member States. The Commission Report of July 1997 and the Resolution of the European Parliament in October 1998 clearly identified the shortcomings of this legislation, mentioning at the same time how this could be improved. Due to other priorities, the Council of Ministers in November 1998 postponed an amendment of the Directive. Still five years later, there is no improvement in the situation in Member States.

Lucas von Hebel, President of ECHAMP: "We estimate about 100.000 notified dossiers of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products all over the European Union are still waiting for registration or marketing authorisation".

After the progressive voting of the European Parliament in October 2002, in line with the expectations of doctors and patients, the Commission and the Council of Ministers have demonstrated a reluctant attitude by once again neglecting or postponing the drawing up of appropriate legislation. The Commission seems to look for the lowest possible compromise which will not at all solve all the practical regulatory problems and which will lead to another ten years of uncertainty. The Council of Ministers tends to consider the homeopathic file as unimportant. Consumers, medical doctors and manufacturers will follow the legislation process carefully in order to contribute to the harmonisation process. The final aim must be to achieve a solid legal basis **finalising the internal market regarding homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products.**

Make sure that your personal interest in homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products will be properly considered. Show initiative! Please get in touch with your health ministry or talk to your national Member of Parliament (MP).

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