



Homeopathy and Anthroposophic Medicine - Facts and Figures

- 65% of Europeans report they have used complementary and alternative medicine (CAM); 30-50% use CAM as self-support and 10-20% have seen a CAM practitioner in the last year.
- Homeopathy is a long-standing European therapeutic tradition with an overall positive safety record first established over two hundred years ago; it is used today by more than 100 million Europeans and enjoys continuous growth in popularity with patients, doctors and practitioners.
- Three out of four Europeans know about homeopathy and of these 29% use it for their own health care.
- 150 000 doctors have taken training in CAM in Europe.
- There are 54 000 specialised homeopathic medical doctors and practitioners in Europe.
- Between 25% and 40% of European health care practitioners prescribe homeopathy occasionally, 7% on a regular basis.
- Thousands of homeopathic medicinal products have been safely on the market in Europe for many decades; these products are low risk, mostly derived from natural substances and usually highly diluted.
- The industry for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products represents 1% of the European pharmaceutical market and 7% of the European non-prescription market (In 2005 this was equal to €1 771 million at consumer prices).
- Sales of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines in Europe are growing by an average 5% a year.
- The top ten EU Member States in terms of sales volumes are France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Great Britain and Poland. France has the highest consumption per head of homeopathic medicinal products in Europe with an average spend of €7 per citizen in 2005. Poland is the biggest player in the CEEC Member States in terms of sales.
- 8 out of 27 EU Member States have issued national policies on CAM including homeopathy (Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, United Kingdom); other EU Member States have specific regulations on homeopathy (Latvia, Lithuania, Romania); some Member States have delegated that task to the medical associations. In Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Latvia homeopathy is recognised as an additional medical qualification by the national medical associations. In France, Spain, Italy and Greece the national medical associations are favourably disposed to homeopathy; in France and Italy they have asked the government for legislation in this field.
- Studies demonstrate that GPs who integrated homeopathy in their practice achieved better results for similar cost. A French Government Report showed that the total cost of homeopathic care per physician was approximately half of the total cost of the care provided by conventional physicians, with the overall cost per patient under homeopathic care 15% less.
- Homeopathic medicines cost considerably less than conventional drugs; in France they represent 5% of all medicines prescribed by physicians, and only 1.2% of all drug reimbursements.

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For further information please contact Sônia Costa at the ECHAMP office on
(32) 2 649 94 40 or e-mail media@echamp.eu – www.echamp.eu



The Regulation of Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicines in the EU

Appropriate legislation and a regulatory framework that allow for a harmonised environment in the EU are essential to ensure Europe-wide availability of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products which meet the highest standards of quality, safety and effectiveness.

Homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products are both part of a long-standing European tradition. They have traditionally been regulated in several EU Member States since the 1970s, including Austria, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, allowing for a wide selection of these products to be available to prescribers and patients. Since 1992, European legislation has been trying to create a common regulatory base in this field.

However, we are still far from common legal provisions for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines with therapeutic indications. Because of the divergent legal and regulatory approach in the EU Member States, European citizens are confronted with differing products and varying availability in the 27 countries.

In 1975, European legislation established three core criteria for human and veterinary medicinal products - safety, quality and efficacy. Specific Directives for homeopathy for human and veterinary use were passed in 1992 (92/73/EEC and 92/74/EEC), subsequently consolidated along with the entire field of pharmaceutical legislation in Directives 2001/82/EC and 2001/83/EC. After a revision in 2004, amended Directive 2001/83 now applies to all medicinal products including homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines, as well as traditional herbal medicines. Many inadequacies still prevail, which deprive Europeans from functioning and harmonised access to these medicines.

For instance, there is no centralized marketing authorisation procedure for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products with therapeutic indications. The Mutual Recognition Procedure, which applies only to those homeopathic and anthroposophic products which are registered without any therapeutic indications (Simplified Registration Procedure), is still in its start-up phase.

Anthroposophic medicinal products which are homeopathically prepared in accordance with an official pharmacopoeia (the European Pharmacopoeia, the German Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia or the French Pharmacopoeia) are treated in the same way as homeopathic medicinal products. While some markets, in particular Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom, recognise some products, a considerable proportion of the range of anthroposophic medicinal products cannot live up to the general authorisation requirements prescribed by European legislation; in many Member States this leads to significant difficulties for manufacturers, prescribers and patients.



Homeopathy and anthroposophic medicine – EU initiatives

January – March 2009 Several Parliamentary Questions have been tabled asking the Commission to explain the poor functioning of the legislation for homeopathic medicinal products in the Community. (see www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/search.do)

23 October 2007 Second Program of Community Action in the Field of Health (2008-2013). *The EP amended the Commission proposal and included complementary medicine in the scope of the Program. “The Program should recognise the importance of a holistic approach to public health and take into account, where appropriate and where there is scientific or clinical evidence about its efficacy, complementary and alternative medicine in its actions”. European funding will be open for studies on the contribution of complementary medicine to public health.*

18 December 2006 Seventh Community Framework Research Program (2007-2013). *The EP amended the Commission proposal and included complementary medicine in the scope of the Program. European funding will be open for studies on the delivery of complementary health care services.*

17 December 2003 EP decision Second Reading on the adoption of Directive 2004/27/EC and 2004/24/EC amending Directive 2001/83/EC: *Rejection of all the amendments that could have solved the problems of homeopathic medicinal products because of lack of time expressed by the Commission due to the accession of the new Member States in May 2004 and the end of the term of the Parliament in June 2004.*

2 October 2002 Report European Parliament - Environmental Committee on the proposal for a EP and Council directive amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use *Rapporteur Françoise Grossetête mainly repeated the amendments of the EP proposed in 1998 during the creation of Directives 2001/82/EC and 2001/83/EC.*

28 October 1998 Report on the Commission report from July 1997 to the EP and the Council on the application of Directives 92/73/EEC and 92/74/EEC on homeopathic medicinal products. *The report and the proposed resolution underlined all conclusions of the European Commission and asked for expansion of research funding. This report is a critical assessment of the legal regime brought about by Directives 92/73/EEC and 92/74/EEC.*

29 May 1997 EP Resolution on the status of non-conventional medicine of the European Parliament. *The Resolution related to MEPs Collins and Lannoye was voted with a very large majority. In the conclusion the Parliament calls on the Commission to launch a process of recognizing non-conventional medicine.*



About ECHAMP

ECHAMP is the *European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products* and represents the vast majority of the industry for these products in Europe. ECHAMP believes that homeopathy and anthroposophic medicine should be fully integrated into health care provision in Europe. It works towards an appropriate European legal and regulatory framework to ensure the easy availability of the full range of these medicinal products, essential for the successful practice and development of these traditional therapies.

ECHAMP is a European Economic Interest Grouping (E.E.I.G.), established in 1999 by 25 founder members. Today it has over 50 full members, as well as its associate and corresponding members. The full members come from 17 different Member States, ensuring that the association represents the majority of the manufacturers of Europe's homeopathic and anthroposophic industry, amounting to a turnover of €930 million, over 8 000 employees and more than 110 million active users throughout the EU Member States.

ECHAMP is a non-profit organisation financed by membership fees. Its Board of Management, which is appointed by the Membership Assembly from amongst the Full Members, sets policy and manages the organisation. Specialist working parties bring together expertise and experience from members around Europe to carry out the scientific work and policy development, developing position statements and ensuring decision makers, competent authorities, press and the public are sufficiently informed on key issues and positions.

ECHAMP's Board of Management

Dr Valentino Corradi Dell'Acqua, Italy
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Nand De Herdt, President of ECHAMP since April 2009, has been a member of the Board of Management since 1999 and was General Secretary from 2004. He is a pharmacy graduate from the University of Leuven and has completed post-graduate training in homeopathy, industrial pharmacy and marketing. Since 1988, he has been employed, first as founder and managing director of Weleda Belgium, and then as Senior European Affairs Officer by the Weleda Group, world-wide manufacturer of anthroposophic medicines.

Full Members are pharmaceutical companies which operate in the production and/or distribution of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products in the EU.

Associate Members are national manufacturers' organisations.

Corresponding members are European organisations representing associations of health care professionals, patients and consumers of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines. Together they represent over 160 national organisations in Europe.