



# **Joint Communiqué**

## Joint Communiqué

Signed by associations of patients, practitioners and manufacturers in the field of non-conventional medicinal products.

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

**On 14th October 2003 the following organisations met, prior to the Hearing held under the auspices of Dagmar Roth-Behrendt in the European Parliament on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products in the European Union:**

- European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH)
- European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH)
- European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP)
- European Federation for Naturopathy (EFN)
- European Federation of Patients for Anthroposophical Medicine (EFPAM)
- European Council of Doctors for Pluralism in Medicine (ECPM)
- International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH)
- International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations (IVAA)
- Internationale Medizinische Gesellschaft für Elektroakupunktur nach Voll (IMGEAV)

**Again all participants unanimously expressed themselves to be in support of the Common Resolution signed in 2002, drawing amongst others the attention to the fact that:**

- increasing numbers of consumers, patients and health practitioners are using non-conventional medicines
- 29% of the European citizens use respectively are familiar with homeopathic or anthroposophic medicinal products
- it is important that patients have the broadest possible choice of treatment
- the nature of the medicines can boast a long tradition of harmless use and are posing no significant risk for public health
- nine years after publication of Directive 92/73 and 92/74 the internal market is far from being harmonised and that this leads to severe problems in availability and circulation of the relevant medicinal product in the European Union
- restrictive and unclear paragraphs cause severe problems in the registration and consequently the availability of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products
- the cost of registration, the unharmonised fees and the demanding requirements are disproportionate with respect to the large range of products necessary for a homeopath or an anthroposophic practitioner to come to an individualised prescription
- health economic evaluations of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products suggest a positive cost-risk-benefit profile.

The united field of stakeholders expressed their worry about the lack of interest into the homeopathic dossier by the European Commission and the Council and call on the European Parliament to strongly maintain its standpoint with respect to the following Amendments adopted in the first reading on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002 of the Review of Directive 2001/83/EC:

- **Amendment 45**, widening the scope of simplified registration to all pharmaceutical forms mentioned in a pharmacopoeia, including injections
- **Amendment 91**, changing the confusing and discriminating disclaimer on medicinal products registered according to the simplified procedure, into "homeopathic medicinal product registered without indications"
- **Amendment 179**, allowing a marketing authorisation of homeopathic medicinal products under Art. 16.2 with specific rules in **all Member States**, aiming at a later frame work of mutual recognition

**And to make it possible that:**

- a rephrasing of Art 14.1/ indent 3 concerning the rule of 1:10,000 will lift the arbitrary and unscientific division within the range of homeopathic unitary medicinal products, and stops to be contra productive to the objectives of Directive 2001/83
- in Art. 68 and 69 a reference can be made to anthroposophic nature

**All the participants agreed that the patients' right to be medically treated according to their wish ought to be a fundamental consumer right.**

**Addition**

This Joint Communiqué dates from October 14<sup>th</sup> 2003.

By December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Amendments have been tabled and have received a new number.

<b>Old number</b>	<b>New number</b>
Amendment 45	Amendment 21
Amendment 91	Amendment 38
Amendment 179	Amendment 23

**ECCH**

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**ECH**

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**ECHAMP**

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**ECPM**

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**IVAA**

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For more information, please contact one of the above mentioned organisations.

The signing of this document does not necessarily imply agreement amongst the organisations concerning matters other than those contained within the Joint Communiqué