ESM
A MEDICINES VERIFICATION SYSTEM FOR EUROPE

Ensuring patients have access to safe medicines

European Stakeholder Model partners hold workshop in a drive for national implementation of the European Medicines Verification System (EMVS)

Sofia, Bulgaria, 4th June 2013 – GIRP (the European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers) in collaboration with its other European Stakeholder Model (ESM) partners EAEPC (The European Association of Euro-Pharmaceutical Companies), EFPIA (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, and PGEU (Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union) hosted a national workshop on the pan- European Medicines Verification System (EMVS). The workshop took place following GIRPs 54th Annual General Meeting.

Richard Bergström, Director General of EFPIA in opening the ESM workshop presentation explained how "all ESM partners believe that patient safety must come first. Counterfeiting must be dealt with in an effective and cost efficient manner. Patients need to be able to trust in the medicines they take which is why we are taking a proactive approach in developing a system that will ensure patients have access to medicines of the highest quality."Bergström encouraged national stakeholders to cooperate and propose national medicines verification systems in line with the ESMs founding principles. Further Bergström called on national authorities to "Support the stakeholder operated and governed approach. Working in partnership with governments, we intend to deliver a system that is robust, secure and cost-effective."

Also speaking at the workshop John Chave, Secretary General of PGEU outlined how "the EMVS offers a modern technology solution to ensure verification of product authenticity by professionals at the point of dispensing. The European Hub will be connected to a series of national data repositories, which serve as verification platforms, and can be used by pharmacies and other registered parties to check a product's authenticity. The system will be harmonised and interoperable between the various countries and will allow for the reconciliation of products traded between EU member states (known as parallel traded products) as well as for multi-country pack management through the European Hub."

One the key features of the EMVS is its offer to those countries who do not want to set up their own national system the opportunity to join an existing product verification infrastructure (national Blueprint System Template). Heinz Kobelt, European Affairs Director of EAEPC explained how this additional offering "is a key cost effective aspect of our proposed system. The more national blue print systems we have in operation the more the costs per pack will fall to the most cost effective level. That is why we are keen to market our proposed system here today in a potential blue print country. As such we are happy to see such wide interest from national supply chain partners and authorities."

The EMVS will be managed by a not-for-profit stakeholder organisation referred to as the European Medicines Verification Organisation ("EMVO"). A similar structure would be put in place at national level to set-up, manage and operate the national system. Monika Derecque-Pois, Director General of GIRP, stressed how closed the partnership is to formalising the governance aspect "we are only a few pen strokes away from finalising the key foundation documents needed for the governance set-up. We will shortly have in place an effective governance structure ahead of the adoption of the Delegated Acts which will allow us all to hit the ground running before the start of the implementation. On a national level ESM stands ready to support and guide national stakeholders develop their own governance structure and encourage them to start working today".

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About EFPIA:

EFPIA represents the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe. Through its direct membership of 33 national associations and 39 leading pharmaceutical companies, EFPIA provides the voice of 1,900 companies committed to researching, developing and bringing new medicines to improve health and quality of life around the world. The pharmaceutical industry invests 27.5 billion on research and development per year in Europe and directly employs 660,000 people including 116,000 in R&D units in Europe.

EFPIA members are committed to delivering innovative medicines to address unmet needs of patients and reducing the burden of chronic diseases for Europe's ageing population. EFPIA believes in close cooperation with its stakeholders to help create sustainable healthcare systems and to develop prompt responses to health threats in Europe.

About EAEPC:

EAEPC regroups the European licensed parallel distribution industry. Through national associations and individual company membership, it encompasses over 70 firms from 22 countries in the EEA. All products handled by EAEPC members have national or EU regulatory approval and are exclusively sourced from and sold to EEA countries using authorised trade channels.

About GIRP:

GIRP is the European umbrella organization of pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers. Pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers ensure the safe, efficient and timely delivery of all medicines whenever and wherever they are needed. GIRP and its members play a vital role in the healthcare supply chain, by supplying about 170,000 retail pharmacies as well as hospitals and other healthcare professionals with more than 100,000 different medicinal products.

About PGEU:

The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) is the European association representing more than 400,000 community pharmacists. PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 32 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA members and EU applicant countries.