

Press Release

Brussels, September 12th, 2003

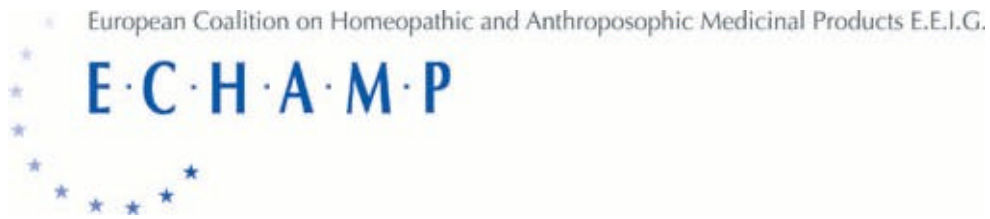
Homeopathy a “no-priority-topic” for EU-Council

Representatives of the European Council in Brussels do not take homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products seriously. This is the feedback of a discussion on June 2nd in the Council in Brussels where once again it was decided that none of the constructive proposals of the European Parliament for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products would appear in the Common Position Papers.

The decision of the Council stands in sharp contrast to the consumer habits of the European citizens. An evaluation report of the European Commission shows that 29% of the European citizens make use of these products. For many decades citizens in the European Union used to find their homeopathic or anthroposophic medicinal products in the pharmacy of their town. Nowadays more and more citizens have to wait for their products, which are all of a sudden not available any more or only in a neighbour country: This consequence is the result of the blocking-policies of the European Institutions.

Forty years ago the first Directive on medicinal products came into force within the European Union. Today the European pharmaceutical legislation is under revision and will replace the national legislation and provisions. Many traditional homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products will disappear only because of an inappropriate European legislation.

Looking back at the first part of the procedure of the revision it is obvious that the proposal of the European Commission was very conservative regarding homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products. Moreover, the proposal was not in line with the conclusions of the evaluation report of the European Commission from 1997. None of the solutions proposed in that report have been taken into the proposal for the revision.



The European Parliament, being aware of the problems for patients, doctors and manufacturers, has dealt with the subject in a future oriented way. It came up with very constructive and good proposals, fully in line with the aims of the Directive: safeguard public health, realise harmonisation for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products and protect the smaller and medium sized enterprises in this sector.

Unfortunately the Council has turned down the whole issue of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products and created a 'no-priority, no-relevance and no-solution' situation for this category of products for the reason that no proposal of the European Parliament for these products appears in the Common Position.

In the last ten years the regulatory competent authorities of the member states have been fully blocked with thousands of products being on the market for decades and with the equivalent number of application dossiers introduced by the manufacturers. In many member states a huge number of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products, with a long tradition of years are going to disappear soon under these circumstances.

ECHAMP, the European association unifying the majority of manufacturers of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products with the highest quality in the European Union, will put all its efforts in order to convince people in the European Institutions to improve the 'homeopathic articles' of the pharmaceutical legislation of the Community. ECHAMP wants to maintain the availability of these products and give them their legitimate place in the European healthcare system of tomorrow.

If you need further information please contact:

Bettina Appel, press ECHAMP
Tel.: +32-2-235.09.81, Fax: +32-2-235.09.82
E-Mail: press@echamp.be