PRESS RELEASE

**New ECHAMP President will continue the fight to put homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products on the EU agenda**

**Brussels, 21 June 2013** Dr Gesine Klein has been elected President of ECHAMP, the European Coalition for Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products, taking over from Mr Nand De Herdt, who retires after four years at the helm.

# ECHAMP’s new President Dr Klein is also Head of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at Deutsche Homöopathie-Union Arzneimittel (DHU) in Karlsruhe, Germany. She has been involved in ECHAMP since its inception and has been leader of its regulatory affairs activity and member of the Board of Management since 2004. She is looking forward to her new role, saying, “Nand will be greatly missed but ECHAMP’s work will continue. Our major challenge now is to make sure our voice is heard and taken seriously at European level. We will continue to defend and develop our industry with more energy than ever before.”

# In his leaving speech, Nand De Herdt, founding member of ECHAMP in 1999, General Secretary from 2004-2009, and President since 2009, echoed her concerns: “It is time for the politicians to find the courage to respond to the significant demand from Europe’s citizens with legislation that makes homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products available and affordable across the EU.”

# The next twelve months will be important for ECHAMP, whose aim is to secure an appropriate regulatory environment for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products in the EU. Its immediate goal is to ensure a more prominent place for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products on the agenda of the EU institutions.

Nand De Herdt hands over his official responsibilities immediately but will continue to support ECHAMP through its transition over the next twelve months. The ECHAMP office in Brussels will be greatly strengthened by the appointment of a new General Secretary, Mr Christiaan Mol, who takes up his post in Brussels in July this year.

ENDS

**Notes to editors**

1. ECHAMP is the European association of companies that work closely together to ensure that its members can meet the demand from users and prescribers across the EU for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products. It advocates in favour of an appropriate regulatory environment for these products in the EU.
2. Homeopathy and anthroposophic medicine are long-standing European therapeutic traditions with an overall positive safety record; they enjoy 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 healthcare. These medicinal products are low risk, mostly derived from natural substances and usually highly diluted; thousands of the products have been safely on the market in Europe for many decades. However, patients, doctors, practitioners and industry have issues with the current legal and regulatory framework because it is inappropriate for the specific nature of these products, resulting in a serious lack of availability for users and for prescribers.
3. 15 members from 8 countries have places on the ECHAMP Board of Management, elected by ECHAMP members at the annual Membership Assembly. Two new members were elected in April this year - Astrid Sprenger, Weleda A.G. (Germany) and Mathias Hevert, Hevert‐Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG (Germany).
4. Christiaan Mol is a pharmacist and International Regulatory Affairs officer at WALA Heilmittel GmbH. Christiaan is also member of the Committee on Manufacturing Methods of the German Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia and Board member of the International Association of Anthroposophic Pharmacists. He has been involved in ECHAMP since the beginning.

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