



## PRESS RELEASE

### **EDQM, COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND FAMHP MEET THE MEDIA**

Brussels, 18 November 2014 – Under the auspices of the Belgian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & Healthcare (EDQM) organised as part of the celebration of its 50th anniversary, together with the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) a workshop for journalists to present the activities of the two institutions and discuss the role the media can play in issues directly affecting patients such as the fight against falsification of medicines and the usage, perception and quality of generic medicines.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Torbjørn Frøysnes, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the European Union, expressed the organisation's support for the invaluable contributions of the European Pharmacopoeia and all the EDQM activities aimed to protecting public health continent wide and underlined that Belgium had been the first country to sign the Convention creating the Pharmacopoeia in 1964.

During this event, other important elements were highlighted such as the inestimable role of the Official Medicines Control Laboratories Network in the daily surveillance of the markets and the importance of European countries ratifying the Council of Europe's MEDICRIME Convention to promote efficient cooperation at international level to fight the counterfeit and illegal medicines.

Patients' representation in scientific committees, ways to deal with the unavailability of medicines and perceptions of generic medicines were also discussed with the audience.

In her concluding remarks, Dr Susanne KEITEL thanked the FAMHP CEO, Mr Xavier de Cuyper, for the agency's support and contribution to EDQM activities in the context of budgetary constraint for all European countries.

Presentations will be published [here](#)

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