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## **PGEU PRESS RELEASE:**

### **Mr Fernand Sauer receives PGEU Honorary Award during the Annual meeting of the organisation in Vienna**

**PGEU, the organisation representing European Community Pharmacists, organised its annual meeting in Vienna. On Monday, the first PGEU Honorary Award was given to Mr Fernand Sauer.**

The purpose of the PGEU Honorary award is to recognise persons active in the European health policy scene who have contributed to raise the profile of the pharmacy profession or who have contributed to the values pursued in the Mission of the PGEU.

The first recipient of the PGEU Honorary Award, Mr Fernand Sauer, is just such an individual. From 1986 – 1994, as Head of the Pharmaceuticals Unit in the European Commission Mr Sauer was one of the key architects of European Pharmaceutical legislation. From 1994 to 2000, he was the first head of the European Medicines Evaluation Agency. Mr Sauer laid the foundations for the rapid growth of its international reputation. Later, Mr Sauer became Director of Public Health at DG SANCO.

The President of PGEU, Mr Schmudermaier: *"One of the characteristics of Fernand's approach to health issues has been his support for the involvement of civil society in the wider European health debate. This is of course something PGEU strongly values. Decisions about health policy involve fundamental choices for our society. These choices need to be debated and different voices need to be heard, particularly the voices of those – long term patients, the elderly for example – for whom health policy is so crucial. Forums such as the European Health Policy Forum, which Fernand created, will help to produce better health policy".*

PGEU Secretary General, Mr John Chave, said: *"Europe's Community Pharmacists recognise that through his work with EMEA and the Commission, no other individual has contribute more to Europe's system of pharmaceutical regulation and approval than Fernand Sauer. Fernand has also been instrumental in putting public health issues on the European agenda. At PGEU we are proud to recognise these considerable achievements through the PGEU Honorary Award".*

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Information for Editors

The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) is the European association representing community pharmacists. PGEU's members are the national associations and professional bodies of pharmacists in 29 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA members and EU applicant countries.