



PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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Key Stakeholders contribute to PGEU Workshop on the Implementation of the Falsified Medicines Directive

For Immediate Release

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 31 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA/EFTA members and EU applicant countries.

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The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union (PGEU) brought together today key stakeholders involved in the development of a medicines authentication system in Europe, as required by the Falsified Medicines Directive¹.

The aim of the workshop was to provide stakeholders and representatives of pharmacy organisations around Europe with a better understanding of the implications of a pharmacy based medicines authentication system.

The event was opened by **John Chave, PGEU Secretary General**, who gave an outline of the stakeholder led system that is being negotiated between PGEU and supply chain stakeholders EFPIA, the Research-based Pharmaceutical Industry in Europe, GIRP, the European Association of Pharmaceutical full-line Wholesalers and EAEP, the European Association Euro-Pharmaceutical Companies. *"We are discussing a Memorandum of Understanding with our supply chain partners that would detail the possible legal, practical and technical aspects of such a system, and would form the basis of our discussions with the European Commission".*

Technical aspects of the database structure for authentication were illustrated by **Mr Paul Mills**, Project Manager from Melior Solutions followed by **Mr Rob Bruchet**, from Pfizer, who presented the position of EFPIA. **Ms Monika Dereque**, GIRP's Secretary General and **Mr Richard Freudenberg** from EAEP explained the position on the Directive and on the stakeholder initiative of full line wholesalers and parallel distributors, respectively. Crucial questions and key issues such as costs and data protection were discussed.

In the second part of the meeting, demonstrations of some already existing national authentication systems were given, namely in Turkey by **Mr Taha YAYCI**, advisor to the **Turkish Ministry of Health**, and in Belgium by **Ms Alison Williams** from **Aegate** and **Guido Hoogewijs** from **APB**. The **EDQM eTACT Medicines Authentication Project** was also presented by **Mr Francois-Xavier Lery**.

PGEU President Ms Isabelle Adenot concluded the workshop by saying: "Having some of the key stakeholders involved in medicines authentication in the same room led to a successful and fruitful discussion. The new Directive has major implications for all of us. European pharmacists want to create a flexible, practical, cost effective system that will meet the key objective of protecting patients from fake medicines. Security of medicines is the main concern of European pharmacists".

¹ Directive 2011/62/EU on the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of falsified medicinal products.