



ANNUAL REPORT 2011
(October 2010 – September 2011)

EuroPharm Forum

The EuroPharm Forum is the European Forum of National Pharmaceutical Associations in Europe. Its mission is to improve health in Europe according to priorities set by the WHO. This work is effectuated through dialogue and collaboration among the national pharmaceutical associations, and technical input and advice from the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The Forum aims to strengthen the position of pharmacists by showing their value to people involved in health issues.

Executive Committee

At the 2010 General Assembly, Kaidi Sarv (EST) and Frans van der Vaart (NET) were elected.

The Executive Committee consists of:

- President ThFJ (Dick) Tromp (NET)
- Vice President Hankó Balázs (HUN)
- Treasurer Gerald M Alexander (UK)
- Kaidi Sarv (EST)
- Carin Svensson (SWE)
- Lidija Petrusevska-Tozi (MKD)
- Frans van der Vaart (NET)

Nina Sautenkova or Kees de Joncheere (WHO) are invited to all meetings in the Executive Committee and have participated in almost all.

The Professional Secretary is Kirsten Holme Christensen.

The Executive Committee has conducted five ordinary meetings and two virtual meetings.

Auditor

Serif Boyaci, Turkey

Secretariat

Kirsten Holme Christensen, Professional Secretary, Denmark

Pharmakon, Danish College of Pharmacy Practice

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Member Countries as per October 2010

Croatia	Republic of Moldova
Denmark	Romania
Estonia	Serbia
Finland	Slovak Republic
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Slovenia
Georgia	Sweden
Hungary	The Netherlands
Ireland	Turkey
Norway	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Portugal	Ireland

Contents

EuroPharm Forum	3
Executive Committee	3
Auditor	3
Secretariat	4
Member Countries as per October 2010.....	4
Activities	6
Members	7
Observers	8
Communication	8

Activities

The past period has been characterised by great efforts to network and put the EuroPharm Forum on the map in different contexts where the professional work of pharmacists has been an issue.

In June, the EuroPharm Forum was invited by the EU Presidency to organise a joint conference for decision makers on Pharmacists' contribution to public health in noncommunicable diseases. The WHO, Europe and the Hungarian National Committee of Pharmaceutical Care were co-hosts.

Dr. Hanna Pava, Deputy Secretary of State at the Ministry of National Resources, Hungarian EU Presidency, welcomed the participants and referred to the Tallinn Charter (2008) which declared that pharmacy services can be important factors in contributing to the improvement of the wellbeing and health of people in Europe. Mr. Kees de Joncheere, Regional Adviser Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals, WHO Regional Office for Europe conveyed an invitation from Dr. Jose M. Martin-Moreno, Director, WHO Regional Office for Europe, to come to Copenhagen to discuss how to enforce the collaboration between WHO and the EuroPharm Forum. Prof. Dr. Gyöngyvér Soós, President, The Hungarian National Committee of Pharmaceutical Care, emphasized the responsibilities of being a profession. Dr. Th(Dick) FJ Tromp, President, The EuroPharm Forum, gave examples on the impact of pharmacists' reducing overconsumption, intervention in Rx and collaboration with doctors.

Prof. Dr. Peter de Smet, KNMP, The Netherlands, summarized that we need more innovative strategies in order to influence practising pharmacists, prescribing physicians and drug-taking patients.

Mr. Kees de Joncheere, Regional Adviser Health Technology and Pharmaceuticals, WHO Regional Office for Europe, representing Dr. Hans Kluge, Director Health System and Public Health pointed out that noncommunicable diseases are a great problem in poor countries.

Ms. Martine Ruggli, Project Manager, Swiss Association of Pharmacies, told the audience about the Swiss quality circles' collaboration with GP's and pharmacists. The model is now implemented in nursing homes, and it has already shown savings with the patients and even showed a reduction of hospital admissions and of mortality.

Dr. Ab Klink, Former Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports, The Netherlands, showed that noncommunicable diseases are a great problem, which will cause a huge economic burden in the future. He stressed it is important to look at the whole health care system and all the players as it is not possible to reduce costs just by looking at one player.

Dr. Attila Horváth-Sziklai, Professional Secretary of the Hungarian National Committee of Pharmaceutical Care, highlighted the successes of the Hungarian National Committee of Pharmaceutical Care and the plans for the future.

Ms. Cristina Santos, Head of Pharmacy-based Services Department, ANF, Portugal, explained the huge number of services provided by the Portuguese pharmacists and gave examples on health campaigns.

The Hungarian version of the Health Systems in Transition (HIT) was launched at the meeting.

In October, the EuroPharm Forum organised a conference in Macedonia on Medication Safety Matters. The outcomes of this conference were not known at the printing of this report, but can be found on the EuroPharm Forum website.

The Council of Europe, EDQM has started a work on pharmacy indicators. The EuroPharm Forum has been invited to take part in this work and has participated in meetings. At one meeting, the EuroPharm Forum was represented by the President and a professional specialist from Pharmakon.

The EuroPharm Forum was asked by FIP to appoint two delegates for the FIP congress in Hyderabad, India to receive the FIP travel grant. No applications for the grants were received.

In order to inform about the EuroPharm Forum's activities and participate in relevant meetings, the Secretariat participated in the FIP Congress 2011. We presented the EuroPharm Forum's activities on a poster in the showcase for the fora.

Members of the Executive Committee have participated in meetings in the EDQM (Strasbourg), 16th congress of EAHP (Vienna), the 34th EPSA Annual Congress, ESCP international workshop (Utrecht), meetings in connection with the 50th anniversary of the PGEU (Berlin), the FIP congress and meetings in connection with the congress (Hyderabad), the 61st WHO Regional Committee meeting for Europe (Baku), and the EFPC conference (Graz).

Members

The member situation of the EuroPharm Forum has been challenging during this period. According to the EuroPharm Forum's statutes, members' resignation must be accepted by the General Assembly to be effectuated the forthcoming year. This paragraph is important as members' fees are the economic basis for the Forum, and the budget for the forthcoming year is decided by the General Assembly. The members from UK sent their resignations after the General Assembly and expected it to be effectuated by 2011. Despite several contacts, it has not been possible to convince them of their obligations.

The Croatian Chamber of Pharmacists has applied for membership to be accepted by the General Assembly.

Observers

The EuroPharm Forum continues to develop a closer relationship to WHO, Europe. Representatives from WHO, Europe are invited and participated in the meetings of the Executive Committee. The first Memorandum of Understanding between WHO, Europe and the EuroPharm Forum is to be renewed in 2012 and will focus on common activities.

The EuroPharm Forum has been invited to attend the meeting of the WHO, Regional Committee for Europe in Baku, Azerbaijan. The President provided an intervention at that meeting.

The EuroPharm Forum seeks to establish a closer relationship to EAHP and ESCP, as we believe the challenges in health care can only be solved in collaboration with the different actors.

For several years, it has been highly prioritised by the Executive Committee to assure a close relationship to FIP. The status of the EuroPharm Forum in relation to FIP is different from the other forums since the EuroPharm Forum was not started by FIP, but by the WHO. The concept of the forum has been taken over to develop the other fora. FIP has stated that they regard the EuroPharm Forum in the same way as the other regional fora. The EuroPharm Forum is not financially connected to FIP.

Communication

The EuroPharm Forum website has been updated and maintained.

The Observatory has so far not been the place where people upload information. The statistics show that during the first half year of 2011, the Observatory was visited by 500 absolute unique visitors and that half of them returned to the site. People mainly find the Observatory directly by entering the address: www.europharm.pbworks.com or through search engines.

The members of the EuroPharm Forum have contributed to updating the Country Database. The Country Database has comprised information on members' pharmacy practice activities since 2002.

During the last period, we have issued 12 Newsflashes. With the Newsflashes, we inform our members and contacts on relevant issues.