

PRESS RELEASE

Europe hosted the 12th VICH Steering Committee

The VICH Steering Committee (SC) held its 12th meeting in London on 7 and 8 May 2003, and welcomed a new Interested Party, Camevet, which represents Authorities and Industry Associations from Latin American countries.

Canada, which joined VICH recently, informed the SC that the Canadian Regulatory Authorities are in the process of implementing 27 adopted VICH Guidelines.

Considering the importance for the future of a worldwide harmonisation in the field of Veterinary Medicinal Products, OIE reconfirmed its commitment and support to the VICH process.

The SC reaffirmed that increased harmonisation is needed among the regions on the collection and evaluation of Pharmacovigilance data. The SC reviewed therefore the status of the work achieved so far on this topic and determined the conditions for the continuation of the work of the Pharmacovigilance Expert Working Group.

The SC acknowledged that the Safety Expert Working Group was close to completion of its mandate. The SC signed-off the final two draft Safety Guidelines at step 4:

- VICH GL 36 - Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food – General Approach to establish a microbial ADI,
- VICH GL 37- Safety of Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Human Food – Repeat-Dose Chronic Toxicity Testing.

These Guidelines were released for consultation for a 6-months period until 15 November 2003.

The SC reviewed the VICH Workplan 2000-2005 and laid out a basis, for future elaboration and consultation, of the second phase of global harmonisation after 2005.

The 13th meeting of the SC is scheduled for 7 and 8 October 2003 in Washington D.C., USA.

Members of the Steering Committee

EU: European Commission - European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

JMAFF: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

USA: US Food & Drug Administration – Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture – Center for Veterinary Biologics (USDA/CVB)

AHI: US Animal Health Institute

IFAH-EUROPE: A division of IFAH, International Federation for Animal Health

JVPA-JAVB: Japanese Veterinary Pharmaceutical Association – Japanese Association of Veterinary Biologics

Observers

Australia/New Zealand: Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)/New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)

Avcare/AGCARM: National Association for Crop Production & Animal Health (Australia)/Agricultural Chemicals & Animal Remedies Manufacturers' Association of New Zealand

Canada: Health Canada (HC) - Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) and Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) - Veterinary Biologics Section (VBS)

CAHI: Canadian Animal Health Institute

Associate Member

OIE: International Office of Epizootics

Interested Parties

AVBC: Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies (USA)

CAMEVET: Representing Authorities and Industry Associations from Latin American countries

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