

PGEU PRESS RELEASE

21 June 2013

Pharmacy Stakeholder Partners Welcome PGEU Vision for Future of the Profession

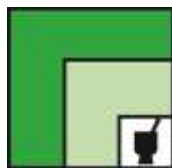
For Immediate Release

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

For more information, please visit the PGEU website www.pgeu.eu or contact

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Senior figures from the pharmaceutical and health sector, including the Italian Minister of Health, have welcomed PGEU's vision of an evolving pharmacy profession during the PGEU Annual Meeting in Rome.

Professor Guido Rasi, Executive Director of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), Gudbjörg Edda Eggertsdottir, the President of EGA, the European generic medicines association, Hans Regenauer the President of AESGP, the European self-medication association, Richard Bergstrom the Director General of EFPIA, the European association representing the research based pharmaceutical industry, and René Jenny, President of GIRP, the association represent European full line pharmaceutical wholesalers, addressed the vision for the profession set out in the PGEU's Community Pharmacy Blueprint, published in November 2012 (<http://www.pgeu.eu/en/policy/19-the-european-community-pharmacy-blueprint.html>).

The Symposium was also addressed by patients and consumer representatives, Tony Avery, Professor of Primary health Care at the University of Nottingham, and Stefano Soro, Head of Unit in DG Sanco from the European Commission.

Commenting positively on the deepening cooperation between PGEU and the EMA, Professor Rasi explained in his presentation how four key challenges which EMA is addressing – facilitating access to medicines and supply shortages, optimising the safe and rational use of medicines, adverse drug events reporting and fighting medicines falsification, are also key areas for professional development identified by PGEU.

Addressing the conference EU President Mr Maximin Liebl commented:

'Our society needs expertise in medicines like never before, particularly as our society ages. It is a paradox therefore that for many of us, the practice of pharmacy is experiencing significant challenges as economic pressure grows. But society needs us. We provide a vital service. We could do more.'

'I particularly welcome the fact that regulators, patients, consumer groups, and our supply chain partners recognise that pharmacy has much to give, and that its role in our health systems needs to be further developed. We also need to engage with patients and consumers to ensure that present and future expectations are fully met and that we deliver on our vision.'