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PGEU PRESS RELEASE: Europe's Pharmacy Association is 50 years old

PGEU, the European Association representing Community Pharmacists, celebrated its 50th Anniversary in the European Parliament on Tuesday 17th November.

On 29 May 1959, the 'Pharmaceutical Group of the EEC' was officially created in Frankfurt. From a base of six founder member countries – France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Italy, PGEU now represents 400,000 pharmacists in 30 European countries.

The anniversary was marked by an exhibition of posters from PGEU members, illustrating key events in pharmacy in their countries over the last 50 years. The event was sponsored by German MEP Dr Thomas Ulmer.

All 26 posters will be available as from 20/11/2009 on the website www.pgeu.eu.

During the celebrations last Tuesday, a message was delivered from 99 year old Dr Ulisse Gallo, one of the original founders of PGEU, who is still alive and well and following pharmacy issues from his home in Milan. The message was delivered by Dr Gallo's daughter Barbara, also a pharmacist.

PGEU President Mr Thony Björk said: "*The last 50 years have seen many changes in Europe, and our 50th Anniversary is an opportunity not only to reflect on what we have achieved in that time, but also on the new challenges and opportunities our profession will face in the next half century in developing its key role in promoting patient safety and better health outcomes.*"

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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 30 European countries, including EU Member States, EEA members and EU applicant countries.