

PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

European Pharmacists elect PGEU President for 2015

*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 33 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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The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union has elected **Mr Darragh O'Loughlin** from the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) as PGEU President for 2015.

Ireland, which became a full member of PGEU in 1964, will take over the PGEU Presidency for the third time since its creation.

Secretary General of the Irish Pharmacy Union since 2013 and previously its President (2010 – 2012), Mr O'Loughlin has been Treasurer and IPU representative for European Affairs in PGEU since 2013.

He graduated in 1993 from the School of Pharmacy at Trinity College, University of Dublin, and first registered as a pharmacist in 1994. He also holds a Diploma in Marketing, Advertising and Public Relations from the Institute of Commercial Management (UK). After university, he spent a short time working in hospital pharmacies but since then has spent most of his career working in community pharmacy. He has operated his own pharmacies for the last fifteen years in Galway, on the west coast of Ireland.



He has also previously served on both the Board of the Health Information & Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), having been appointed by successive Ministers for Health.

Mr O'Loughlin will continue the work of the current Slovak President, Mr Krchňák, who will stand down from his role in December.

Mr O'Loughlin paid tribute to his predecessors in the role, saying: *"I am greatly honoured to have been elected to the PGEU Presidency at this important time. Pharmacists provide an essential accessible healthcare service to the public in every part of Europe. With my European colleagues, I look forward to building on the excellent work of my predecessors to ensure that pharmacists' expertise, skills and contribution to healthcare are recognised and valued at both national and European level and also to ensure that appropriate opportunities to enhance pharmacists' role are maximised in a manner which will benefit the profession, the health systems and, most importantly, the public."*