

## PGEU PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

# European Pharmacists elect Jan Smits as PGEU President for 2016

**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](http://www.pgeu.eu) or contact [J.chave@pgeu.eu](mailto:J.chave@pgeu.eu)



The Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union has elected **Mr Jan Smits** from the Royal Dutch Pharmacy Association KNMP as PGEU President for 2016, at its General Assembly meeting in Dublin



Mr. Smits studied pharmacy at the State University of Utrecht. He had ten years of experience in the national and international marketing of drugs and provision of business services with Glaxo and Yamanouchi Europe, and twelve years of pharmacy experience in managing a group of pharmacies. Mr. Smits was also member of the board of MKB, the national organization for small and medium-sized enterprises.

From November 2008 until December 2012 he was the president of the Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP). As president of the KNMP he played an important role in the organisation of the FIP Centennial and the first Ministerial Conference in Amsterdam.

Mr Smits stressed in his acceptance speech: *"It is necessary to generate data on the outcomes from services and interventions provided by pharmacists. These data will substantiate the vision we have for the future of our profession. It will make clear that the community pharmacist makes a substantial contribution to health care and society. Correct use of medication helps to postpone or even prevent costly hospital admissions. It helps people to continue functioning in their own environment, in their homes and in their jobs. From an economist's perspective you could say that the contribution of the community pharmacist should not be seen as a cost, but rather as an investment"*.