

PRESS RELEASE

VICH to hold a 4th Public Conference in collaboration with OIE

The programme of the VICH IV Public Conference that will take place in the headquarters of OIE, the World Organisation for Animal Health, in Paris on 24 & 25 June 2010 was finalised at the 23rd VICH Steering Committee meeting held in Kobe, Japan on 5 & 6 November 2009.

This public conference will focus on discussion sessions related to the new VICH global outreach initiative and will also comprise current activities of the Expert Working Groups. The two day public conference, that will follow a meeting of the OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories, is expected to have a strong participation of representatives from non-VICH countries.

The Steering Committee reviewed a proposal for a future strategy on global outreach towards non-VICH countries, in collaboration with OIE, aimed at providing a basis for wider international harmonisation of technical registration requirements. This strategy will be finalised after receiving input from non-VICH countries during the VICH Conference.

The Steering Committee adopted the following draft Metabolism and Residue Kinetics Guidelines for release for public consultation at step 4: VICH GL 46 (*Nature of Residues*), VICH GL 47 (*Comparative Metabolism Studies*), VICH GL 48 (*Marker Residue Depletion Studies*) and VICH GL 49 (*Analytical Methods used in Residue Depletion Studies*). The consultation period in the VICH regions and Observer countries will be 6 months.

The Steering Committee agreed to initiate work on developing a guideline on requirements to establish bioequivalence of veterinary medicinal products and a guideline on statistical evaluation of stability data. The Steering Committee also agreed to review the current activities in the regions regarding rabies vaccines potency testing, in preparation of the possible future development of a guideline on this topic.

The Steering Committee reviewed the progress of the Expert Working Groups on Pharmacovigilance, Quality, Biologicals Quality Monitoring, Microbiological ADI and Safety.

The 24th meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for 23 and 26 June 2010 in Paris, France.

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

EU: European Commission - European Medicines Agency

JMAFF: Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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

AHI: US Animal Health Institute

IFAH-EUROPE: representing the European Animal Health Industry

JVPA: Japanese Veterinary Products Association

OBSERVERS

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

The Alliance/AGCARM: Animal Health Alliance (Australia) Ltd./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: World Organisation for Animal Health

INTERESTED PARTY

AVBC: Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies (USA)

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