



Second EU Homeopathy Day – BECAUSE IT WORKS FOR ME!

Brussels, 3 April 2009

“100 million patients across the EU choose homeopathy as part of their health care. It is time for the European institutions to fully acknowledge the importance of this safe and effective therapy for so many European citizens. Homeopathy should be firmly integrated into EU health policy,” said MEP Marian Harkin. She was the host of and guest speaker at yesterday’s Second Annual EU Homeopathy Day—BECAUSE IT WORKS FOR ME!—held at the European Parliament.

The event highlighted the need to raise awareness amongst politicians and decision makers in Brussels, on the important role that homeopathy plays in promoting individualised patient health and how integrated medicine must be added to the European health agenda.

Three out of four Europeans know about homeopathy and of these 29% use it for their own health care. In Europe there are 54,000 specialised homeopathic medical doctors and practitioners and between 25% and 40% of all European health care practitioners prescribe homeopathy.

“Homeopathy helped me enormously and continues to help me today. For the first time in my disease’s history, someone has understood, someone finally ‘got’ what I have been experiencing: I believe all patients should have access to the type of treatment I have received, if they so choose and doctors should be sufficiently trained to understand what homeopathy can achieve for patients and know when it is appropriate to recommend it, as in my case”, said Helen Llewelyn, a patient of homeopathy from UK.

The event was a joint initiative of the European associations of patients, practitioners, doctors and pharmacists of homeopathy and the European homeopathic industry association. They brought together speakers with varying perspectives to stress the importance of integrated medicine.

Speakers included: Dr Ton Nicolai, President of the European Committee for Homeopathy; Helen Llewelyn, a patient of homeopathic medicine; Professor George Lewith, from the University of Southampton, who spoke about the need for an integrated approach to medicine; Professor Jaap Sijmons, a health lawyer from Utrecht University who spoke on patients’ rights and the EU responsibility with respect to complementary medicine; and Dr Elio Rossi, from the Homeopathic Clinic and Campo di Marte Hospital, who spoke on behalf of the only region in Europe, Tuscany, where complementary medicine is integrated into the conventional healthcare system.

The event celebrated homeopathy as a worldwide medical system with its roots in Europe and commemorated the founder of homeopathy, German physician Samuel Hahnemann (1755-1843). Furthermore, it set the stage for World Homeopathy Awareness Week, which begins on 10 April.

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Patients’ associations: European Federation of Homeopathic Patients’ Association (EFHPA), European Federation of Patients’ Associations for Anthroposophic Medicine (EFPAM). Doctors associations: European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH), European Council of Doctors for Plurality in Medicine (ECPM), International Federation of Anthroposophic Medical Associations (IVAA). Health practitioners’ associations: Association of Natural Medicines in Europe e.V. (ANME), European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH), European Federation for Naturopathy (EFN). Manufacturers’ association: European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP). International association: World Homeopathy Awareness Organisation (WHAO).