



## *Newsletter No 9 - 09*

September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Schoeneck

Dear CAM – supporters,

In connection with drug safety, The European Economic and Social Committee (EWSA), is demanding improvements in the monitoring system of medicines and a strengthening of the European home market. For EWSA, the priorities lie in a more “balanced” distribution of responsibility, quicker passage of resolutions, more transparency and better coordination among the member states of the EU ([www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)). This news is of particular interest in connection with the goals of the EU – Commission’s plans to make fundamental revisions in the guidelines of 2001 for Human Medicine, the guidelines for Patient Safety, as well as other guidelines. For more excellent information in this case, please read more in the attached “Welcome Packages” in English and French.

The German “Society for Phytotherapy” has taken a position regarding the EFSA (European Food Safety Agency’s) so-called “Health Claim List, Article 13” and has clearly pointed out the difference between phyto-therapies (those authorized for the treatment of illnesses) and supplements (foods which, at best, have a strengthening effect on the body). In view of the well-researched and secured plant medicines, the EFSA is to work closely with the London-based EMEA (European Medical Evaluation Agency), where plant substances in supplements are concerned. The society is sure that this will mean safety for future products as well as patients. More about the actual situation of “Foodsafety” you will find in the attached documents in English and French, or you participate in the actual discussion on: <http://europa.eu/debateurope/> .

The organizations GREENPEACE and FOODWATCH judge the European-wide Consumer Information Law to have failed in practice. Consumers have to spend up to € 250 for official information. The first problem sited when one wants to receive information regarding foods, cosmetics, etc. is “inadequate competency”, a favourite line from authorities in order to avoid having to provide information. A second problem: after a period of one year, test inquiries had still not been answered.

Within the framework of the healthcare economy, the EU-Commission, represented in person by the director of the General Directorate, Robert Madellin, is prepared to allocate more space to CAM in the future. In order to find a basis upon which to work, all active CAM representatives in Brussels were asked to provide well-founded data within a short period of time, regarding procedures and therapies used in CAM in Europe. Actually we have therefore decided to consult our member organizations by using brief questionnaires and ask that they be answered as quickly as possible. If you haven’t answered yet please do so.

Watch your steps, but do it

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