

Press Release

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Council of Europe inaugurates new EDQM building

Strasbourg, 19.03.2007 – The Council of Europe will inaugurate the new building for its *European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM)*, in a ceremony on Tuesday 20 March at 11 am.

The ceremony, to which the press will have limited access, will be addressed by:

- Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe,
- Vuk Draskovic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe,
- Fabienne Keller, Mayor of the City of Strasbourg,
- Walter Schmied, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs,
- Dr Michael Morris, Chairman of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission,
- Professor Jean-François Mattei, Chairman of the French Red Cross;

Ian Micallef, President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, will represent the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

The EDQM is responsible for the Technical Secretariat of the European Pharmacopoeia. The European Pharmacopoeia promotes and protects public health by establishing and providing users with official standards for the manufacture and quality control of medicines.

The EDQM co-ordinates the network of Official Medicines Control Laboratories (OMCLs) to facilitate mutual recognition between countries of quality control tests carried out on medicines. It is also responsible for setting the standard for the quality and safety of organs and substances of human origins, blood and blood derivatives.

Its new building, whose floor area of approximately 19,500 m², combines functionality and elegant modern design in three parts: laboratories, offices and meeting rooms, designed to meet the EDQM's technical, communication and staff needs.

A **press conference** with Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis, French Red Cross President Jean-François Mattéi, EDQM Director Agnès Artiges and building architect Isidore Zielonka, of Art & Build, will be held at **11.45 am in Room 200 of the new building**, located at 7 allée Kastner, in Strasbourg, immediately after the official inauguration ceremony.

The EDQM's new home – whose total building costs are set at some €35 million – was designed and built by the Brussels-based Art & Build, which has earned its international reputation over the past 15 years through commissions for buildings throughout Europe, including healthcare centres and laboratories.

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